FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 245 *20 December 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

OPEC Leader Makes Statement on Oil Price Increase A 1
Gulf Papers Criticize West's Campaign Against OPEC Price Rise A 1
PLO Spokesman: PLO Willing To Negotiate Peace With Israel A 2
[Rome ANSA]
'Arafat on Security Measures for Israel, Palestinian State A 3
[Paris LE MATIN 12 Dec]

ARABIAN PENINSULA

QATAR

Joint Statement Issued on Recently Concluded Mobutu Visit C 1

UAE

Abu Dhabi Emirate's Share in Jointly Owned Oilfield Noted C 1

YEMEN--YAR

Foreign Minister al-Asnaj Calls on U.S. To Recognize PLO C 2
PRC Agrees To Build Conference Hall in San'a' C 2
Presidential Decrees Appoint Four Provincial Leaders C 2

EGYPT

Ghali Explains Current Situation to Foreign Envoys D 1
East, West Europeans D 1
Meets Arab Ambassadors D 2
Press Comments on Israel's Stubborn Attitude D 3
As-Sadat To Visit Governorates 20 Dec D 4
Conscription Law To Be Changed; Education Improved D 4
Presidential Assistant on Nobel Award, Peace Drive D 5
[Al-AHRAM 15 Dec]

JORDAN

Husayn Meets With British Opposition Leader, Others F 1
Meets With Media Representatives F 1
Minister of Finance Presents 1979 Budget to NCC [JORDAN TIMES 19 Dec] F 1
Leaves for Saudi Arabia F 2
Transport Minister Returns From Damascus Meetings F 2
AR-RA'Y: UNRWA Employees Continue Strike in Host Countries [20 Dec] F 3
JORDAN TIMES Criticizes 'Predictable Howl' at OPEC Prices [20 Dec] F 3
AD-DUSTUR Discusses Israeli Campaign Against Washington [20 Dec] F 4
Amman Radio Comments on Israel's 'Price of Peace' F 5

LEBANON

Prime Minister al-Huss Addresses Chamber of Deputies G 1
Parliament Adopts Recommendations on Bayt ad-Din Resolutions G 5
Fu'ad Butrus Resigns Defense Portfolio G 6
Security Situation 'Tense' During Chamber of Deputies Meeting G 6
Former Lebanese President Comments on Present Situation G 7

SYRIA

Talks Resumed With Czechoslovakia; Cooperation Program To Be Signed H 1
Paper Urges UN Role in Middle East Peace Efforts H 1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Algeria Holds Inquiry, Arrests Five in Plane Incident Involving Morocco I 1
Algiers Paper Dismisses Hitch in Peace Treaty Negotiations I 1
[EL MOUDJAHID 15-16 Dec]
Libyan Armed Forces Commander Arrives in Algiers I 2

LIBYA

Libya Promises To Detain, Extradite FRG Terrorists I 3
Closer Ties With West I 3
JANA Continues Report on People's Congress Proceedings I 3
Conclusion of 18 Dec Session I 3
19 Dec Morning Session I 4
19 Dec Evening Session I 5
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With PFLP Secretary Habash I 6
Receives 'Arafat I 6
Receives PFLP's Jibril I 6
Receives POLISARIO Delegation I 7
Soviet Official Leaves After Attending Congress Sessions I 7

MOROCCO

MAROC-SOIR Replies to Algerian Accusation on Airlift I 7

SUDAN

Meeting of Eritrean Factions To Be Held in Khartoum I 8

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Fitouri Addresses National Assembly I 8

WESTERN SAHARA

Minister Criticizes Mauritania, Says Talks Have Resumed I 10
[Paris LE MONDE 14 Dec]

ISRAEL

Weizman Orders Cessation of Sinai Evacuation N 1
Jerusalem Reports 19 December Knesset Session N 1
Begin Address N 1
Peres Knesset Speech N 8
Dayan Address N 15
Other Speeches Reported N 17
Further Details N 17
Dayan Speaks at Conclusion of Political Debate N 18
Motion Censures U.S. Position on Negotiations N 18

IRAN

NIOC Says Oil Output 3.3 Million Barrels Per Day R 1
100 Iranians Charged With Exporting Capital R 1
Khomeyni, Montazeri Hold Talks in Paris R 1
Italian Daily Interviews Former Iranian Premier R 1
Clash in Tehran Bazaar Area Reported R 2

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

Labor Party Chief Against Election Boycott S 1
Opposition Parties Meet, Uphold Election Boycott S 1

INDIA

Delhi Gives Details of Action Against Mrs Gandhi S 1
Former Gandhi Officials Jailed S 2
Pro-Gandhi Demonstrators Arrested in Delhi, Chandigarh S 2
Demonstration in Calcutta S 2
Further Delhi Arrests S 2
Incidents in Bangalore, Bombay S 3
Vajpayee on U.S. Nuclear Technology Transfer S 3
Joint Statement Issued Following Lee Kuan Yew Visit S 4
Bangladesh Foreign Minister Arrives in Delhi S 5
Holds Talks With Vajpayee S 5
Ministers Comment on Effect of OPEC Oil Price Increase S 5
Fernandes Returns From Libya, Austria, Vatican Visits S 6

NEPAL

King Grants Amnesty to 31 Nepali Congress Workers S 6

PAKISTAN

Karachi Radio Comments on New U.S.-PRC Ties S 6
Bhutto Continues Testimony in Supreme Court S 7

SRI LANKA

Trade Talks With PRC Open in Colombo S 8

BRIEFS

Soviet Trade Delegation in Bangladesh S 8

OPEC LEADER MAKES STATEMENT ON OIL PRICE INCREASE

NC192045Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 19 December--OPEC Secretary General 'Ali Muhammad Jaydah has affirmed that the increase in oil prices decided recently at the Abu Dhabi conference will continue and that there will be no going back on it. He said that any attempt to increase the price of processed materials, a further decline of the dollar or a continued state of inflation will compel the OPEC states to increase the price of their oil in order to compensate their losses.

In a statement made to the QNA correspondent in Kuwait, Jaydah denounced the campaign being launched by the industrial states against the decision to increase oil prices. These states are saying that it will have disastrous results on the world economy. Jaydah affirmed that the results of the increase have been exaggerated by Western circles and that in actual fact, the increase represents only 10 percent of international trade. In this context Jaydah explained that on 1 January, oil will be sold at a lower price than it was sold for in January 1977. This holds true if the decline in the dollar and inflation in the industrial states are taken into consideration. This means that the West European states and Japan will pay less for crude oil on the basis of their currencies as opposed to the basis of the dollar.

Jaydah referred to repeated reports which assert that the lack of an oil surplus in the international market--whether as a result of diminished production of Iranian oil or the refusal of some states to increase production--has contributed to the decision on the new prices. He said: Although supply and demand are considered an effective gage in prices for any commodity, this is not the only gage considered when the price of oil is amended. Jaydah said that an amendment in oil prices is made in accordance with a number of economic factors, such as inflation, fluctuation in currency values and the economic needs of the consumer countries in addition to other political and social factors.

Asked about recent hints made by some U.S. sources that they were behind the process of a graduated increase in oil prices, the OPEC secretary general said: There is no truth to this. The principle of a graduated increase has existed in OPEC circles for some time and had been accepted by the Doha conference when it decided on a 10 percent increase effective the beginning of the year and a 5 percent increase in the middle of the year, although the second increase had been canceled in order to unify the price of oil.

Regarding his own personal expectations on the effects that North Sea and Mexican oil production will have on the OPEC states, whether in connection with production or prices, Jaydah explained that North Sea oil potential is limited and that its production will reach the highest levels at the beginning of the 1980's, while reports are conflicting on production potentials for Mexican oil. Jaydah added: In any event, any future increase in demand is certain to absorb any increase in production from outside the OPEC states and consequently he does not imagine--at least in the medium term--that this will affect OPEC's effectiveness as far as production and pricing are concerned.

GULF PAPERS CRITICIZE WEST'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST OPEC PRICE RISE

NC192140Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] Doha, 19 December--Gulf and Saudi Arabian newspapers today criticize the information campaign unleashed by the industrial states against OPEC's decision to increase oil prices by 10 percent during the upcoming year.

In Saudi Arabia, the newspaper 'UKAZ says that the OPEC states' decision to increase oil prices aims at creating an economic balance that will serve foreign trade. The newspaper notes that the dollar plays a key role in foreign trade. It says that the decline of the dollar at this stage, particularly following the OPEC decision, reflects the desire of the United States and the industrial states to dilute the effect of the increase in oil prices.

The newspaper AL-MADINAH AL-MUDAWWARAH denounces the angry reaction coming from the industrial states. It says that the attitude of the industrial states is a combination of evasion of responsibility and hesitation in adopting decisions that preserve the soundness of the international economic system and the international monetary situation.

In the UAE, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD describes the campaign of the industrial states against the oil price hike as a fabricated and misleading uproar. The newspaper asks why these states have allowed themselves to denounce a natural right exercised by OPEC in the face of the dollar's decline, which has eroded oil royalties by 54 percent the past 2 years.

The newspaper affirms that the increase approved by OPEC is by all measurements judicious and reasonable because it is graduated throughout next year. Also, it will only slightly make up for the huge losses suffered by the OPEC states because of the continuing decline of the dollar and the high prices of industrial commodities and production services offered by the advanced states to the developing states, including the oil-producing states.

In Kuwait, newspapers unanimously agree that the increase in oil prices will not in any way compensate for the huge losses inflicted on the oil royalties of the OPEC member states. The newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM says it is clear that this increase is not an increase in the real sense because it will only partially compensate for the huge losses inflicted on the oil royalties of the OPEC states. This is because the U.S. dollar--this international nightmare which is exhausting the world economy and shaking the soundness of the economic system--is the cause of the losses, the cause of inflation and the cause of economic upheaval in the world. The U.S. aim is to maintain its control of the industrial states and the oil states.

The newspaper AL-QABAS says that this increase is considered a real beginning toward linking oil prices with the rate of inflation. It is not an adjustment of prices because an adjustment would mean increasing oil prices by at least 200 percent.

PLO SPOKESMAN: PLO WILLING TO NEGOTIATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL

AU2009OOY Rome ANSA in English 0800 GMT 20 Dec 78 AU

[Text] Paris, December 20 (ANSA)--Ibrahim Suss, director of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) office in Paris, has confirmed that the PLO is willing to immediately negotiate peace with Israel "if the United States should make such a request".

Speaking before the Club American of Paris on Tuesday, Suss recalled that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat had told United States Senator Jacob Javits that the organization was ready to recognize Israel "de facto" if it accepts the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Suss also asserted that the Palestinian resistance is carrying out operations against Israeli military installations, but nothing is known about this because of Israel censorship.

'ARAFAT ON SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR ISRAEL, PALESTINIAN STATE

LD191149Y Paris LE MATIN in French 12 Dec 78 p 12 LD

[Philippe Lapousterle 9 December Beirut interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat: "Palestinians Oppose Camp David Agreements"]

[Text] Nothing has officially changed as far as the United States is concerned. There can be no question of recognizing the PLO until it accepts the terms of Security Council Resolution 242, which gives Israel the right to live within "secure and recognized borders." New light was cast on that particular point during U.S. Senator Findley's visit to the region when he met Palestinian leaders, especially Yasir 'Arafat.

After prolonged discussions the U.S. senator declared that the PLO leader was prepared to consider ending armed actions against the Jewish state if the Palestinians could have a sovereign state covering the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the two regions being linked by a corridor.

Some 3 days ago, we had a long meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, who explained his position on that point: "In fact, I told the U.S. senator that the problem did not really exist. How could anybody imagine that a small state like mine, which has no institutions or any real army, could pose a threat to Israel, which has a very sophisticated army and is capable of making the whole Arab world dance to its tune? It is I who need assurances, not Israel." During a later conversation Yasir 'Arafat told us he had asked the United Nations and the two superpowers for assurances. Therefore there is no longer any doubt that the Palestinian resistance is prepared to accept a state within the borders of the territories occupied after 1967 and policed by an international force. The international and military guarantees given to that Palestinian state would also provide the Jewish state with guarantees. Moreover the PLO leader stressed his good relations with the UN interim force in Lebanon to show that he is capable of respecting and enforcing respect for Palestinian pledges to the United Nations.

All Palestinian organizations are unanimous in rejecting the Camp David agreements and the self-administration status proposed for the occupied territories. "The Camp David agreements and their followup are simply a legalization of the Israeli occupation. Those agreements contain no mention of the Palestinian people's rights, recognized by more than 100 nations, especially their rights to return home, to self-determination and to build an independent state," Yasir 'Arafat affirmed.

Not only is the PLO opposed to the agreements, it will take any action it deems necessary to prevent their implementation. Asked how the PLO would react to elections organized in accordance with the Camp David agreements, Yasir 'Arafat replied: "There will be no elections under those circumstances. We cannot accept that we should be forced to vote for a status identical to that of the blacks in South Africa."

While all Palestinians are opposed to the Camp David agreements, there is some Palestinian resistance to the PLO leader's dialog with the Americans. At a political meeting in Beirut Sunday, rejection front leader George Habash stated: "We are determined to wage a long people's war against the Jewish state. Our objective is to liberate our masses in Haifa, Jaffa and throughout Palestine." However, the disagreement is more apparent than real, since one rejection front member stated: "The objective is certainly to liberate the whole of Palestine but that does not mean that armed struggle is the only way. After obtaining a state we can continue the struggle by political means."

QATAR

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON RECENTLY CONCLUDED MOBUTU VISIT

NC1912C8Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1116 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 19 December--Qatar and Zaire have emphasized that Israel must withdraw from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 including Arab Jerusalem, and that the rights of the Arab people of Palestine to return to their homeland and set up their own independent state there under the leadership of the PLO must be guaranteed.

This was contained in the joint statement issued on the visit of Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko to Qatar, which ended yesterday.

The two sides declared that the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories and Israel's continued insistence on its false claims, as well as its adoption of aggressive attitudes in violation of international law and of the UN Charter and resolutions, are a serious cause of trouble in the area and expose international peace and security to the gravest dangers.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the great Arab and African interest in developing relations between Arab and African states in all spheres. They also held that strengthening their solidarity is the best way to help them achieve their common objectives in all domains.

The two sides reaffirmed their full support for the African peoples who are still suffering from the yoke of imperialism and under racist tyranny. They emphasized their full support for the national liberation movements struggling for independence and for the establishment of regimes governed by majority rule. In their joint statement, Qatar and Zaire expressed concern about the tension that still prevails in areas of Africa.

The two sides declared their faith that existing problems must be settled by peaceful means. They also expressed their dissatisfaction with the presence of foreign forces in the African Continent.

On international relations, the two sides reaffirmed their faith in the principles of the UN Charter and their complete interest in strengthening the United Nations and its branches and efforts to preserve world peace and promote a just international economic system. On bilateral relations, Qatar and Zaire expressed their satisfaction with the existing strong bilateral cooperation and reaffirmed their intention to develop this cooperation in the interests of their two peoples. They also discussed the possibility of Qatar's participation in development projects in the Republic of Zaire.

UAE

ABU DHABI EMIRATE'S SHARE IN JOINTLY OWNED OILFIELD NOTED

JN190641Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 78 JM

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 December--It was reported here today that the Abu Dhabi Emirate's share of the crude oil produced by the (Al-Bunduq) company reached 795,504 barrels during the period between 1 January and 1 October 1978. The Abu Dhabi marine areas company exported 859,568 barrels [figure as received] of Abu Dhabi's share during the same period. Abu Dhabi and Qatar equally share in the (Al-Bundug) oilfield output.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ CALLS ON U.S. TO RECOGNIZE PLO

JN191810Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj has described Israel's stand toward the Middle East issue as intransigent, hostile and destructive of all chances of peace in the region.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Al-Asnaj said that Israel alone bears the consequences of its intransigence. He also called for the need to exert world pressures to force Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and recognize the Palestinian Arab people's right to establish a Palestinian homeland.

The minister further said that conditions are now appropriate to reevaluate Arab relations and remove the [word indistinct] that have recently emerged. The foreign minister said: I believe that Egypt deserves unlimited Arab support. He then called on the United States to announce recognition of the PLO and added: It is demanded of the United States today, more than ever before, to announce this recognition and consequently convince Israel of the need to recognize the presence of the Palestinian Arab people and their just cause.

PRC AGREES TO BUILD CONFERENCE HALL IN SAN'A'

JN191827Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 78 JN

[Text] An agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the YAR and the PRC was signed at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The agreement stipulates that the PRC shall build a hall for international conferences in San'a', to be provided with all means of modern communication.

The agreement was signed on the Yemeni side by Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, while on the Chinese side it was signed by the PRC charge d'affaires in San'a'.

After signing the agreement, the foreign minister expressed the thanks of the YAR Government and people to the PRC for its generous aid in development and other fields. He said that the Yemeni people harbor cordial feelings of appreciation for the friendly Chinese people.

The PRC charge d'affaires expressed his great thanks to the YAR officials and praised the economic cooperation between the two friendly countries. He further said: This project is not the last. He then expressed hope that the project will be successful, wishing the YAR progress and prosperity.

It is noteworthy that this hall will cost 100 million rials.

PRESIDENTIAL DECREES APPOINT FOUR PROVINCIAL LEADERS

JN191951Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] Presidential Decree No 15 of 1978, appointing a governor and commander for the province of Ma'rib:

Article 1: Lt Col Mujahid Abu Shawarib shall be appointed governor and commander of Ma'rib Province.

Article 2: This decree shall be put into effect as of its date of issuance and be published in the official gazette and military publications.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in San'a' on 19 December 1978.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister

Presidential Decree No 16 of 1978 appointing a governor for Dhamar Province:

Article 1: Lt Col 'Abdallah Daris shall be appointed governor of Dhamar Province.

Article 2: This decree shall be put into force as of its date of issuance and be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in San'a' on 19 December 1978.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister

Presidential Decree No 17 of 1978 appointing a governor for Sa'dah Province:

Article 1: Muhammad Hasan Dammaj shall be appointed governor of Sa'dah Province.

Article 2: This decree shall be put into force as of its date of issuance and be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Republican Palace in San'a' on 19 December 1978.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister

Presidential Decree No 34 of 1978 appointing the commander for Ibb Province:

Article 1: Lt Col Ahmad ibn Sa'd shall be appointed commander of Ibb Province.

Article 2: This decree shall be put into force as of its date of issuance and be published in the official gazette and the military publications.

Issued at the general command of the armed forces in San'a' on 19 December 1978.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces

GHALI EXPLAINS CURRENT SITUATION TO FOREIGN ENVOYS

East, West Europeans

NC1916000Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 December--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Acting Foreign Minister Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that Egypt adheres to its Arab commitments, which take priority over its other commitments, and that it adheres to the common Arab defense treaty.

Dr Ghali reaffirmed that Egypt gives first place to the Palestinian issue because it is the crux of the Middle East problem. He said that Egypt's concern with the issue is permanent and continuous. Dr Ghali said that Egypt will continue to shoulder its full responsibilities until a comprehensive and just solution for the Middle East crisis is achieved and the Palestinian people's rights are recognized.

Dr Ghali made the above statement when he met today with the ambassadors of West and East European states accredited to Egypt. The meeting comes within the framework of Egyptian diplomatic moves to explain Egypt's position in the peace negotiations during their current important phase.

Dr Ghali began his meeting with the European ambassadors and representatives in Cairo by explaining the latest developments in the peace negotiations. He said that the main problem is linking and balancing of steps to be taken in Sinai and those to be taken in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Dr Ghali explained that the problem does not lie in formulas, but in the intentions and commitment to definite dates for the implementation of these commitments.

Dr Ghali said that what is being said about Egypt's making new proposals is not true. From the first day of the negotiations, Dr Ghali said, precisely on 14 October, 1 day after the negotiations started, we submitted a note to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance concerning the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He said that on 21 October, due to the intervention of U.S. President Carter, we reached a compromise stipulating a separate agreement through an exchange of identical letters guaranteeing the fixing of dates for the holding of negotiations on Gaza and the West Bank, defining the powers of self-rule and the date for elections--a matter which proves that the question of linkage had occupied first place from the very beginning.

In his statement to the European ambassadors in Cairo Dr Ghali affirmed that the current phase of peace negotiations is witnessing a similarity between the Egyptian and the U.S. positions in connection with pending problems.

Dr Ghali explained that the reason for the current halt in the negotiations is Israel's intransigence and refusal to accept proposals leading to a comprehensive and just solution. Replying to a question on the possibilities of the coming phase, Dr Ghali said: Egypt is ready to continue the negotiations and has the patience for it. Peace requires patience, but it must be a comprehensive peace based on justice.

Dr Ghali's 90-minute meeting with the European ambassadors in Cairo was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretaries Sa'd 'Afrah, Salah Hasan and Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil.

The meeting was also attended by the directors of the West and East European Departments at the Foreign Ministry. At 1800 Ghali is expected to meet with Arab ambassadors in Cairo within the framework of the Egyptian contacts and diplomatic moves.

Meets Arab Ambassadors

NC192116Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1922 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 December--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today resumed his contacts with the representatives of the states accredited to Egypt to explain the current status of the peace talks in light of the recent Israeli activity obstructing the conclusion of an Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement.

Dr Ghali met with the Arab ambassadors and charges d'affaires in Cairo. He affirmed Egypt's principled stand on the peace talks based on the need for a comprehensive and just solution of the Middle East crisis and linking the Sinai agreement with the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The 90-minute meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary's Salah Hasan, Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil and Ahmad Mahir. It was also attended by a number of Arab affairs specialists at the Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting Dr Butrus Ghali reviewed recent developments and the current status of the peace talks. He affirmed that Egypt's effort has been basically centered on insuring that steps will be taken toward solving the Palestinian problem through the election of representatives for the Palestinian people and through the Palestinian people assuming power, beginning to rule themselves and exercising their rights in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Dr Ghali affirmed Egypt's firm and consistent stand represented by its refusal to sign a peace treaty with Israel unless it is accompanied by a complementary agreement, which will be considered an integral part of the treaty and will include specific steps for the establishment of Palestinian rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed to the Arab ambassadors that Egypt's Arab commitments take precedence over any other pacts, treaties and agreements and that there can be no bargaining over these commitments.

MENA has learned that the discussions that took place between the minister of state for foreign affairs and the Arab ambassadors were characterized by general appreciation of the consistency of the Egyptian stand, which insists that the settlement should be comprehensive and rejects any separate settlement. Egypt has continuously affirmed this stand since President as-Sadat's speech to the Knesset and during all the talks and contacts that have followed.

The discussions revealed that the Arab ambassadors are interested in seeing the U.S. stand continue to actively support the Egyptian stand, which is in harmony with the rules of law, legitimacy and international charters and with all the resolutions issued by international organizations.

The Arab ambassadors expressed thanks to Dr Butrus Ghali for the continuation of consultations from time to time with the Arab brothers and for the friendly, frank and positive spirit which prevails at these meeting and for Egypt's policy aimed at always acquainting the Arab states with all developments pertaining to the issue.

Moroccan Ambassador in Cairo Abdellatif Laraki told MENA that Butrus Ghali gave a full and comprehensive explanation on the reasons for the recent suspension of the talks and on Egypt's stand represented in the need for the solution to be comprehensive and just, particularly with regard to the Palestinian issue, which is the crux of the problem.

The Moroccan ambassador added that during the meeting Dr Ghali also affirmed that Egypt will not sign any treaty with Israel unless it is comprehensive, particularly with regard to the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian issue. He said we expressed to the minister our appreciation for Egypt's stand, which has always been consistent, particularly with regard to the interests of the Arab world and the Palestinian people's cause. This stand has been reaffirmed by Egypt's present attitude and by its insistence on the need for linking the Sinai agreement with the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

UAE Ambassador Sayf 'Ali al-Jarwan said that Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed Egypt's firm attitude toward the Arab cause, particularly with regard to the Palestinian issue and the occupied Arab territories. He said that he has returned in the past few hours to Cairo from Abu Dhabi after delivering to Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan a personal message from President Anwar as-Sadat concerning the latest developments in the Middle East.

Dr Butrus Ghali will resume his contacts with the other ambassadors and representatives of states tomorrow. He will meet with the ambassadors of the Latin American states in the morning. He will also meet with the Asian states' ambassadors in the evening.

This morning Dr Butrus Ghali met with the ambassadors of states of Eastern Europe and Western Europe together for the first time, in accordance with the spirit of the Helsinki agreement, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the growing peaceful coexistence between states of the two blocs.

PRESS COMMENTS ON ISRAEL'S STUBBORN ATTITUDE

NC2007202 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Dec 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo newspaper editorials and commentaries continue to deal with Egypt's insistence on peace and Israel's intransigent attitude.

In its commentary today, AL-AKHBAR refers to the speech which Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin delivered in the Knesset yesterday. The paper says it is tantamount to an official announcement rejecting peace and plotting against the historic and rare opportunity to establish peace.

The paper says that in his speech Begin spoke with the mentality of a man who fears peace and who considers it a threat to security, to fate, to the future, and even to existence. Begin spoke as if he had been surprised by Egypt's pan-Arab commitments, its defense of the rights of the Palestinians and its insistence on a comprehensive solution. The Egyptian proposals, which were approved by the United States, were consistent with these firm Egyptian principles, which Begin knows Egypt will not deviate from.

The paper expresses the belief that Begin is continuing his attempt to deceive and mislead the world when he says that these essential bases for a comprehensive solution will render the peace treaty void.

The paper explains that Begin is repeating the old method of frightening the Israelis of the results of peace and warning them of the grave dangers in case a peace treaty is signed.

The Israelis have learned from experience that the only hope for the future is peace, and that the war business is a losing business.

The paper calls on Begin to choose between the path of stubbornness, which would lead him to a dead end that involves no good prospects for Israel, and the path of submission to the will of the peoples of the Middle East and the world. There is no more place in our time for old ideas and impossible dreams of expansion, annexation, flexing of muscles, and defiance of the international community.

Concluding its article, the paper says that those who entertain such ideas have no future, because they stand in the way of a strong current which overruns all obstacles--the current of a comprehensive and just peace.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH comments on Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's recent statements. The paper refers to Dayan's statement that Israel is determined to continue its policy of establishing settlements in the West Bank and that the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and that the Israeli settlements in this area were established with a view to staying there.

The paper calls on the world to reread or relisten to the statements of the Israeli foreign minister and to join us in asking: What has changed?

The paper says that Israel began the settlements policy while it was in a state of war with Egypt and the Arabs. No one in the world disagreed then or disagrees now that this policy is an act of aggression, and that it is, even under military occupation, rejected and is contrary to international conventions.

The paper says that Israel is now approaching an era of peace in which it is demanding for itself all the privileges of which it was deprived during the state of war, including guaranteed security and permanent borders, the establishment of diplomatic relations with its neighbors, and the establishment of full economic and cultural relations with Egypt and with any other Arab side that agrees to do so. The paper points out that, nevertheless, Israel insists on exercising an act of war in a state of peace. This act of war is the continued establishment of settlements on the territory of others which it occupied by military force.

The paper asks: Does Israel think that Egypt and the world are so naive as to accept a fragile peace that achieves nothing but hides malevolent intentions of continued expansion and perpetration of occupation?

AS-SADAT TO VISIT GOVERNORATES 20 DEC

NC200655Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 20 Dec 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] The Cairo press this morning highlights reports on the visit President Anwar as-Sadat will pay today to the Ad-Daqahliyah and Dumyat governorates. The papers point out that during this visit President as-Sadat will follow up the food security projects and economic and social development. The press reports that President as-Sadat will arrive in Al-Mansurah at noon today, and will speak tomorrow at a popular rally to be held in the governorate. The papers say that President as-Sadat will speak at the rally on the form of national action to be adopted.

CONSCRIPTION LAW TO BE CHANGED; EDUCATION IMPROVED

LD191643Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 17 Dec 78 pp 1, 11 LD

[Text] Minister of Defense and War Production Maj Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali has declared that a new conscription law will be put to the People's Assembly during its current session and that the new law involves changes with respect to volunteers and conscripts.

AL-AKHBAR has learned that the bill also provides for reducing the age of conscription from 35 to 30 years and the military service period in respect of the various groups will remain as it is: 3 years for those with no educational qualifications, 18 months for those with intermediate qualifications (general secondary certificate and its equivalent) and 1 year for those with university qualification.

AL-AKHBAR also learned there is an inclination to abolish conscription in respect to some people with qualifications needed for civilian services.

It was also learned that the armed forces will establish a vocational training program for the uneducated and for those with less than intermediate qualifications in order to prepare them to contribute to civilian projects after their demobilization.

Consideration is also being given to exempting university tutors and providing male students with the same opportunity given to female students for the completion of their masters or doctorate theses, so that conscription will not prevent them from carrying out such work and to keep in effect the present system of conscription up to the age of 28 years and 9 months in respect to this category as well as to final-year students in colleges.

PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT ON NOBEL AWARD, PEACE DRIVE

LD191523Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[Hamdi Fu'ad interview with Presidential Assistant Sayyid Mar'i--date not given]

[Excerpts] Speaking in his well-known quiet manner, Sayyid Mar'i said: My first mission as assistant to the president was President as-Sadat's assignment to me to act on his behalf in Oslo. I felt that I was going to be an unacceptable figure, first because I would be representing an international personality and, second, because the world was expecting to see President as-Sadat receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

I have tried, within the limitations of my mission, to reflect through my presence President as-Sadat's philosophy of peace, his thoughts and his idea of accepting the Nobel prize as well as to explain the reasons that prompted him not to attend. I felt that within this framework I would be able to undertake this responsibility.

In Oslo I felt I was facing a different situation. The world was expecting to see President as-Sadat and the ceremony was being watched by millions of people. In addition I was going to meet Menahem Begin. I did not know what he was going to say although I watched his method and actions at the Israeli Knesset when President as-Sadat was delivering his historic statement and when he replied to As-Sadat's speech. I also observed his attitude in Ismailia and at Camp David. Despite the fact that I had never met Begin before, I felt that he speaks as if Israel owns the world. Perhaps you will recall the big gathering of Jewish European millionaires whom Begin invited to Oslo.

When Menahem Begin began his speech at the award ceremony, I felt that he was talking about the past and the persecution of the Jews as if he were blaming those present, and especially the Norwegian people, for not adopting a stand against such persecution.

I tried to portray Egypt's historic greatness and its love for peace as well as its rejection of a separate peace. This was the essence of President as-Sadat's message which I read to the audience.

While Begin was making his speech I recalled his comments at the White House after signing of the Camp David agreement in which he gave the impression that Israel had conceded its rights, while in fact the world rejects the occupation of land by force. Therefore, when he adopted this attitude in Oslo I tried during my meetings with leaders, officials and ambassadors as well as in my interviews with the Norwegian and U.S. radio and television networks to explain Egypt's attitude and to show the great sacrifices it has made in support for and solidarity with Arab rights and the right of the Palestinian people in particular.

After I read President as-Sadat's message Mrs Lionaes told me she was very pleased with it because the president emphasized the importance of peace and his adherence to it in every line of the message. The message did not speak of peace in general terms but of the mainstays of peace. She was even more pleased that President as-Sadat invited her and the Nobel Prize Committee to attend the signing of the peace agreement. Afterwards I met with the Norwegian prime minister, who was accompanied by the foreign minister. Although he had an engagement to see off Menahem Begin he inquired about the situation in the area and its possibilities. I explained to him President as-Sadat's philosophy since he assumed office and his policy which led to his obtaining the peace prize.

When I met with the king of Norway, he--despite the fact that the constitution does not allow him to discuss politics--expressed his happiness at President as-Sadat's message. I took this opportunity to convey to his majesty President as-Sadat's invitation to him and to members of his family to visit Egypt.

Question: A demonstration in Oslo condemned Begin's policy in the occupied territories and supported the Palestinian people's rights. The demonstrators did not attack Egypt or its policy. Would you have agreed to meet with the Palestinians in Oslo and the Norwegians who support their cause?

Answer: Yes, without any doubt. Our declared and official stand has always been one of supporting the Palestinian people and their cause. I would have welcomed very much such a meeting had the demonstrators asked for it.

So far we have been unable to achieve all that the Palestinian people want. What we have been demanding in this respect does not represent all our aspirations. But at the same time I believe that the Arab nation should not leave President as-Sadat to shoulder this responsibility alone.

Also, it is illogical on the part of some leaders to adopt the attitude of spectators or critics. Therefore, I would like to ask the following questions:

Has not the time come for the Arabs to say in public what they say at meetings behind closed doors? Has not the time come for the Arab leaders to be frank with their people? Are they now in a position allowing them to propose alternative and practical solutions?

Has not the time come for all of us--both rejectionists and supporters--to propose practical solutions of the Palestinian problem and to confront the settlements which begin in a small way and then spread. Such settlements are implanted in different areas and then become a problem. We have heard of Sharon's statements to London's THE GUARDIAN. He is a man who still lives in the past.

Will our method continue to be rejection without offering alternatives? How do the Arab countries react when they see the United States adopting a balanced stance, not only where Carter, the U.S. administration and the Congress are concerned but also at the level of U.S. public opinion and media? As-Sadat has sought to bring in the United States as a partner in the peace process and it has in fact become an active partner.

Question: What is your opinion of the Arab situation in general?

Answer: We are in need of a studied strategy based on three principles:

1. A worldwide Arab-Islamic strategy with regard to Jersualem. We want the Arab and Islamic parties to declare their views on the question of Jerusalem, which is Arab. President as-Sadat and President Carter have exhanged letters on the position of the holy places.

When such a strategy is worked out firm plans should be drawn up to implement it, not through such a thing as the Baghdad summit conference but through direct contact between Saudi Arabia and the United States, for example, as well as contacts between the Arab countries and the majority of the world capitals.

2. A strategy with regard to the settlements. I would propose that there also be a strategy regarding the settlements issue, and not in the manner in which King Husayn is dealing with this subject. King Husayn is asking Israel to adopt specific attitudes. But we should seek to deal with this matter through continuous work and by drawing up a clear strategy. We are demanding the release of imprisoned Palestinians as well as the preservation of their rights. We have many other problems facing us. One of the main responsibilities of King Husayn is the issue of West Bank water sources and of the public lands which the Israeli Goverrment wants to confiscate.

3. The third point is the more encompassing one, namely that there should be an Arab strategy for the achievement of peace. Had the rejection conference in Baghdad chosen war, for example, the situation would have been different. But it asked for the achievement of peace. Therefore, we agree on the basic objective. But they have not specified for us how to achieve this peace. They have given Menahem Begin the opportunity to say in Oslo that Israel wants to achieve peace with all the neighboring Arab countries--as if he were the one seeking peace--while the Arab nation is refusing to do so. Shall we allow him to appear as the man desiring peace while we are the ones who want war? Our road is a long and difficult one but we will continue on it.

HUSAYN MEETS WITH BRITISH OPPOSITION LEADER, OTHERS

JN191647Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has resumed his activities and contacts with various British circles to explain the Arab cause. In his residence in London at noon today, his majesty received Margaret Thatcher, leader of the British Conservative Party, accompanied by the official spokesman for party foreign affairs. His majesty also received the deputy leader of the British Liberal Party and members of the Jordanian-British parliamentary group. During these meetings, his majesty explained the latest developments in the Middle East situation, the Jordanian stand and the Arab views on these developments. His majesty reiterated the main principles that would lead to establishing a just and durable peace in the area. In another development, several members of the official delegation accompanying his majesty had talks with senior British officials in the foreign affairs, economic and supplies fields. They discussed the various fields of bilateral cooperation and Jordanian-British economic relations.

Meets with Media Representatives

JN200622Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Text] At his residence in London last night, His Majesty King Husayn met with the political editors of the British newspapers and gave an interview to the British television network IBN. During the two meetings, his majesty discussed all aspects of the current situation in the Middle East. He reaffirmed the constant Jordanian stand toward the establishment of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. His majesty also explained the Arab viewpoint within the framework of the Arab summit conference held recently.

MINISTER OF FINANCE PRESENTS 1979 BUDGET TO NCC

JN191030Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Dec pp 1, 3 JN

[By 'Awni Badir]

[Text] Amman, Dec 18--The government presented its biggest ever budget to the National Consultative Council [NCC] this morning, with total expenditures for 1979 projected at 513, 429,000 Jordan dinars, compared with the 1978 budget of 363,100,000 Jordan dinars. Minister of Finance Muhammad ad-Dabbas told the NCC that domestic revenues are estimated at 176,500,000 Jordan dinars, as against 155,800,000 Jordan dinars in 1978, an increase of 20,700,000 Jordan dinars, or 13.3 percent. The sum of 112,200,000 Jordan dinars is earmarked for development projects as against 67,900,000 Jordan dinars in 1978.

Budget allocations are as follows:

General Administration	2,768,000 Jordan dinars
Defence	114,000,000 Jordan dinars
Internal and Public Security	22,014,000 Jordan dinars
International Affairs (Foreign Ministry)	3,930,000 Jordan dinars
Fiscal Administration	115,281,000 Jordan dinars
Economic Development Services	155,976,000 Jordan dinars
Social Services	54,595,000 Jordan dinars
Cultural and Information Services	9,175,000 Jordan dinars
Communications and Transport Services	35,690,000 Jordan dinars

The 1979 budget reflects the government's keeness to increase reliance on domestic resources to cover the basic services, Dr ad-Dabbas said. The new budget estimates Arab assistance at 214,929,000 Jordan dinars. In his statement the minister of finance indicated that sufficient allocations have been made to improve the situation of government employees and increase their income. Funds are also earmarked to cover Jordan's purchases of crude oil, wheat and other basic commodities. Provision has also been made for financial assistance to Jordanian universities.

The statement indicated that the gross national product in 1978 went up by 42,200,000 Jordan dinars over 1977, which is an increase of 10.4 percent. Foreign loans in 1978 amounted to 64,300,000 Jordan dinars, Dr ad-Dabbas added.

The statement said the budget deficit carried over into 1978 from 1977 was 35 million Jordan dinars. The deficit in 1978 was 38,200,000 Jordan dinars. The aggregate deficit carried over into 1979 will thus be 73,200,000 Jordan dinars.

Dr ad-Dabbas announced that the deficit resulted from the failure of some Arab countries to pay their obligations (as decided at the Rabat summit) and the drop in the real value of foreign aid resulting from the depreciation of the dollar.

The NCC referred the draft budget to its financial and administrative affairs committee. NCC President Ahmad al-Lawzi reminded members that under article 112 of the constitution budget expenditures can only be reallocated by passing a new law in each instance. Parliament (which is dissolved) has the power to cut expenditure if it deems this to be in the public interest, but even parliament does not have the power to allocate new funds for expenditure either through amendments to the draft budget or through separate motions. Nevertheless, Mr al-Lawzi said, subsequent to the debate on the budget, the NCC may propose new draft laws providing for further spending allocations.

During the debate itself, proposals to either impose new taxes or cancel or otherwise alter taxes in force will be not accepted. Furthermore, motions to alter expenditures or revenues which would violate existing contracts are not permissible.

The NCC financial and administrative affairs committee will meet in open session as of Tuesday to discuss the proposed budget. The committee will put its recommendations before the council session next Monday when the budget will be debated. The budget will then be sent on for ratification by the cabinet. A royal decree is the last step in the process before the budget goes into effect.

Leaves for Saudi Arabia

JN181947Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] Amman, 18 December--Finance Minister Muhammad ad-Dabbas left Amman for Saudi Arabia today to attend the meeting of the special committee of Islamic banks that will begin in Jidda tomorrow.

TRANSPORT MINISTER RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS MEETINGS

JN191016Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 19 December--The meetings of the General Assembly of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Maritime Transport Company were concluded in Damascus yesterday.

'Ali as-Suhaymat, minister of transport and chairman of the Jordanian side at the meetings, said following his return to Amman yesterday evening that the two sides discussed the company's achievements in the current year and the work plan for the next year, as well as the company's budget. He added that they also reviewed achievements of the Jordanian-Syrian Company for Land Transport and its plan for next year. As-Suhaymat said he also had talks with his Syrian counterpart on the project of the Hejaz railroad, in light of the preliminary results reached by the technical committee, and that they discussed prospects for cooperation in the two ministries' projects in the two fraternal countries.

AR-RA'Y: UNRWA EMPLOYEES CONTINUE STRIKE IN HOST COUNTRIES

JN200646Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Dec 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman--The strike of the UNRWA employees will enter its fourth phase this morning, when all operating sectors of UNRWA in the host countries suspend work for four hours.

UNRWA representatives arrived in Amman yesterday for negotiations with the working team representing the three operating and striking sectors in UNRWA. The first session of talks ended yesterday morning at UNRWA headquarters in Amman without reaching any results. The two sides will meet again this afternoon to resume negotiations.

'Abd ar-Rahim Jarar [under secretary of the Jordanian Ministry of Reconstruction and Development] said that the ministry supports the working team and is working in coordination with the governments of the Arab host countries to prompt UNRWA to back down from its obstinate stand.

JORDAN TIMES CRITICIZES 'PREDICTABLE HOWL' AT OPEC PRICES

JN200814Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Dec 78 p 2 JN

[Editorial]

[Text] There has been a predictable howl from predictable quarters about the oil exporters' decision to raise the price of their crude oil by 14-and-a-half percent in four installments over the next year.

There was outrage in the United States, the world's most profligate consumer of oil. There was concern in Japan, which imports virtually all its oil supplies. There was dismay in India and other developing countries which now have to come up with extra foreign exchange to pay their oil bills.

Some of the reactions are naive and ill-informed, like that of a U.S. congressman who suggested American trade "retaliation" against all oil exporters except those few with whom the U.S. has a favourable trade balance. This "solution" [not] only ignores the fact that the oil producers have gone out of their way to maintain the ailing dollar as the "oil currency" and have literally flooded the U.S. capital, financial and property markets with petrodollars, but also puts the cart before the horse: If the U.S. wants to reduce its trade imbalance with the oil producers it might try reducing its dependence on imported oil.

There have been a few breaths of fresh air. One U.S. economist points out that even a near 15 per cent rise still does not keep pace with the depreciation of the dollar through inflation; in real terms, he says the price of oil has actually fallen by about 25 per cent since 1974.

There are those who realise that only when the squeeze is on, particularly in the U.S., can we expect to see any meaningful effort to develop alternative sources of energy--harnessing those fundamental elements--sun, wind, water--that are all around us and whose energy capabilities are for the most part ignored while we go on burning up a costly and dirty resource that is comparatively difficult to exploit.

And the world needs constant reminding of the efforts made by the oil producers to date, particularly through the OPEC special fund, to ease the burden of the poorer states with generous allocations of aid: The Arab oil producers, for example, earmark ten times as much of their GNP for foreign aid as do the major industrialised countries.

The list of projects underwritten with such aid throughout the world is long and impressive and wideranging. But there are still many countries, within the Arab world and further afield, who have yet to see all the funds they've been promised, a fact mentioned by Finance Minister Muhammad ad-Dabbas on Monday when he announced Jordan's 1979 budget. The latest oil price rise will put more money at the disposal of the donor states. It is to be hoped that they will redouble their efforts to help out those less fortunate than themselves.

AD-DUSTUR DISCUSSES ISRAELI CAMPAIGN AGAINST WASHINGTON

JN200723Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Dec 78 pp 1, 14 JN

[Text] In light of the discussions in the Knesset yesterday, the statements made by Begin, Dayan and Peres, and regarding the contacts Israel has initiated with representatives of the diplomatic missions in Israel, it clearly seems that there is a ferocious Israeli campaign currently escalating in and outside Israel against the administration of President Carter's administration and against the President personally. The aim of the campaign is to accuse the United States of being biased in favor of Egypt during the process of the abortive endeavors that Secretary Vance made recently. The campaign also aims to justify the Israeli rejection of these endeavors, since this rejection has led to failure to sign the treaty between Egypt and Israel on time, as fixed by the two Camp David agreements.

Furthermore, the campaign suggests that both the government and the opposition in Israel want to make the U.S.-Israeli differences over the treaty provisions a "national issue" in order to create an atmosphere of reluctance within Israeli society, because such an atmosphere usually constitutes the indispensable guarantee for this society's "cohesion." Israel does not mind if this cohesion takes place in this phase at the expense of the United States.

Anyway, the Israeli campaign has indicators worthy of study and meditation. These indicators can be summed up as follows:

1. Despite all that the United States has been giving to Israel, the United States has not escaped the vindictiveness of the Israeli mentality, which cannot accept anything other than "dictating" its terms to others. The best evidence of this is that Israel has not hesitated in accusing the U.S. administration of being biased against it, just because the United States had a different outlook on the Egyptian-Israeli treaty--one that is not in harmony with the Israeli outlook.

2. The campaign clearly revealed Israeli intentions regarding the West Bank and Gaza Strip when Dayan announced that the proposed autonomy cannot lead to liquidation of the Israeli settlements or withdrawal of the Israeli forces from these areas.

3. Furthermore, Begin affirmed Israel's insistence not to commit itself to a fixed date to establish the feeble autonomy. He gave a strange explanation, saying that Israel cannot be committed to any date in this connection because experience has proven that the date fixed for signing the treaty with Egypt has not been implemented.

In sum, the three indicators mean that Israel does not seek to abandon its colonialist and expansionist ambitions, even if this required a campaign of blackmail against the United States and President Carter. On the other hand, this outcome confirms the "ambiguity" of the path charted by the Camp David agreements. This has prompted the Arab states and the Palestinians to reject and avoid this path. The current situation confirms the soundness of the Arab rejection of the two Camp David agreements, because the Arabs discovered at first glance that the agreements do not constitute the basis for establishing comprehensive and just peace in the area. Naturally, we cannot exclude the possibility that Washington might confront the Israeli campaign by waging a counterexplanatory campaign, if reports are true that Vance is currently preparing a white paper including his complaints against the Israeli negotiators.

If this paper is destined for issue, it will be the first of its kind in the history of U.S.-Israeli relations and will help strengthen the international feeling of the danger of the Israeli obstinacy regarding peace in the area. However, more important than all of this is that Washington should learn a lesson from what has happened and take the initiative to rectify the course of its endeavors by joining the efforts aimed at taking the issue to the UN Security Council, so that the international community might take on its responsibility and force Israel to go along with the will of the world and accept the just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the UN resolutions issued in this connection.

AMMAN RADIO COMMENTS ON ISRAEL'S 'PRICE OF PEACE'

JN191820Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] The outbiddings that have taken place during the Egyptian-Israeli talks, through U.S. mediation the past 3 months and up to the date scheduled for ratification of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement on Sinai, have blatantly unveiled the price of the Israeli peace and the peace deal Israel is trying to peddle under the canopy of peace and under the canopy of the Camp David agreements. It has become obvious that the price of peace is the building of Egyptian-Israeli relations without taking the Palestinian cause into consideration, far removed from the Arab nation's fate and the development of events in the Middle East area. This has been described by Begin as the biggest Zionist dream after the signing of the Camp David agreements in Washington.

Egypt, which now realizes through experience that the maximum Arab concessions cannot guarantee even the minimum Israeli concessions, has reassessed its calculations and discovered through its experience and distress that Israel's peace concept is completely different from that of the Arabs. Israel came into existence with the aim of usurping land, and any peace leading to the loss of its land must conflict with its aim of existence. The Arab peace move was conducted with the aim of regaining the occupied Arab territories, and any peace that does not achieve this aim must be a form of capitulation and defeatism. It is high time for Egypt to return to this base and to render the principle of regaining the occupied Palestinian, Syrian and Egyptian lands a measure of real peace.

Can Egypt, which realizes Israel's peace concept and the price of Israel's peace, succeed? Can the Arabs, who have learned as a result of this experience to propose an alternative to rectify the peace march, succeed? This is what the Arabs are eager to achieve before it is too late.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS ADDRESSES CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

NC191430Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1138 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[Statement by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss to the Chamber of Deputies in Beirut on 19 December--part recorded, part read by announcer]

[Text] [Announcer] Following are some parts of Prime Minister al-Huss' statement: [begin recording]

Mr Speaker, respected members: We have always believed and we continue to believe that the Lebanese crisis is basically a political one and that the security problem springs from this. The disease is essentially political. Its symptoms appear in the realm of security, and this is why we say that any remedy applied only to the security aspect and not the political aspect is a superficial remedy, and therefore is subject to impediment. Indeed, our experience in the past 2 years is evidence to this. The state has been engulfed in the whirlpool of shows of strength, disengagements, meetings of the planning committees, and so on.

The efforts exerted led to a dead end because the attempts to promote a political settlement did not produce a decisive result. The security problem grew with time and assumed such dimensions that it became a separate problem. The horrifying tragedies caused by the security problems made it necessary to deal with the security aspect in order to eliminate as much as possible the causes of the daily frictions and to alleviate the sufferings of the people and to spare innocent blood.

Nevertheless, the security situation continued to be linked to the political situation, just as a branch is joined to the stem. Proceeding from this state of affairs, we have called for national detente.

I permit myself here to repeat to you what we said in our cabinet statement to the Chamber of Deputies about 18 months ago on 21 July 1977. We said then that the issues we are dealing with are, regardless of the predominant signs characterizing these issues, essentially political. This applies to the issues of the south, the evacuees, the rebuilding of the army and even the reconstruction, because there can be no reassurance unless there is a political solution. [end recording]

[Announcer] I carry on with the text of the prime minister's statement. He said: In concluding that [21 July 1977] statement, we said, verbatim: Political detente is the key to a solution. In the coming phase we will not be able to solve any of the vital problems--from the rebuilding of the army, the problem of the south, and the problem of the evacuees, to other problems--and we will not be able to embark on reconstruction at the desired rate unless there is political detente.

Yes, detente is the key to a solution of the Lebanese problem, in more ways than one. Detente would first of all settle the political differences and thus eradicate the disease at its roots. Secondly, detente would unify the hitherto disunited Lebanese position and thus promote one Lebanese front to cope with all the challenges facing the homeland and the dangers threatening it. Unity of position and unity of will are bound to give Lebanon the vital, or the minimum necessary, degree of national immunity to foreign forces and influences which have slipped through the cracks created by division and disputes among the Lebanese, to turn Lebanon into an arena of Arab and international conflicts of which the Lebanese themselves have been the willing tool.

If this necessary minimum degree of national immunity had existed before, this excessive organic linkage between the Lebanese issue and the Middle East issue would not have been present and the Lebanese problem would not have assumed the size of the major issue [the Middle East conflict].

The prime minister added: It is obvious that complete disengagement of the Lebanese issue from the Middle East issue is not possible. Lebanon, as any Arab state, is committed to the Arab cause and accordingly must endure all burdens and sacrifices required by the Arab cause. Furthermore, the size of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon gives a special dimension to the interaction between the Lebanese issue and the Middle East issue.

Nevertheless, it is possible to isolate both problems to give Lebanon the leeway to live with the Middle East problem until this problem is resolved in a manner that will insure Lebanon's national interest and fulfill the Arab aspirations. These problems can only be isolated by unifying the national will by means of detente.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: We have always advocated a political settlement by means of a national detente formula. We do not regard detente as being an agreement among parties because we are aware that getting the parties together and getting them to agree involves complications which we would be better off without.

The difficulty is not only represented by the gap between these parties, but by the link between certain internal forces and foreign forces and by the interest of some parties--on both sides of the dispute--to preserve the gains which they made in the war and in the long run to maintain the status quo. Detente, in our opinion, means the detente of the government; it must be embodied in a formula adopted by the government and emanating from what the government has been able to achieve as a result of extensive contacts with the various parties.

Prime Minister al-Huss then said that the government's weapon in the political settlement is embodied by its posture and that there is no more potent weapon than a firm stand if the legal authority decides to brandish this weapon in its enemies' faces. The authorities should determine their stand with regard to the overall political settlement and should make an appeal for this position by means of campaigns aimed at enlighting and recruiting public opinion so as to enable the government to make a distinction between those who support and those who oppose it. Those political parties which agree with this stand should be included in the ruling process through a homogeneous coalition government. Preferably this should be a majority government, since general consensus is not possible.

The prime minister added: In our aforementioned statement in the parliament we said that detente cannot be imposed by force but should be set up on the basis of common convictions based on the belief in a united Lebanon. The first condition of detente is a willingness by all the principle parties to achieve detente. This requires that detente not be conditional on any other issue and that no other issue be given priority over the issue of detente.

We still adhere to our belief that detente should not be conditional on any issue and that no other issue be given priority over it--not even the security problem.

Since then, however, we have become convinced that going back and forth among the parties is no longer beneficial. The government should be the one to bridge the parties' contradictions by submitting--and not enforcing--a detente formula. If the majority of the Lebanese agree on something, then there is no need to force them to do it.

As for our position on detente, we will refer to it later on.

Regarding the topic of this session, namely the executive program and the Bayt ad-Din conference resolution, the prime minister said: As is well known, the conference of the Arab foreign ministers of countries participating in the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] was convened in Bayt ad-Din 2 months ago in an atmosphere pervaded by the considerations of security. At that time, the country was undergoing a situation in which violence was the overriding factor. The Bayt ad-Din conference was the outcome of a visit President Sarkis made to some Arab capitals during which he outlined Lebanon's security problems. It is a small wonder, then, that security considerations had a prominent place in the recommendations of the Bayt ad-Din conference. In addition to the fact that the atmosphere was charged with security considerations--which prompted the convocation of the conference in the first place--the outcome of the conference dealt mostly with security considerations because of the relationship of the conference participants to the ADF, and because of the ADF mission--which is a security mission. Moreover, the conference participants were well aware that matters not dealing with security--foremost of which is the political issue--can be dealt with only by the parties to whom this is an issue of concern, that is, by the Lebanese themselves.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: However, the conferees did not disregard the importance of the overall political solution. Thus, the statement issued by the conference noted that the conferees had studied the various aspects of the Lebanese crisis and emphasized the need to tackle the Lebanese crisis by means of a comprehensive approach.

Among the principles adopted by the conference are those stressing the need to achieve national detente. Thus, even though the Bayt ad-Din conference did not go into the formula for the comprehensive settlement--and this was neither expected nor required of it anyway--it regarded national detente as the means for an effective solution.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: At the conclusion of the Bayt ad-Din conference, we announced our adherence to all of its decisions. This was only natural since the conference was convened at Lebanon's behest in order to help Lebanon overcome its predicament. The Bayt ad-Din conference embodied in its resolutions a good Arab will. Lebanon also made a basic contribution to drawing up the resolutions of this conference. In the Lebanese Cabinet's first session following the Bayt ad-Din conference, the cabinet decided to adopt the conference's recommendations. In a subsequent meeting, the cabinet approved the executive program of the Bayt ad-Din statement.

All this clearly indicates the commitment of all of us to the conference resolutions. When we tried to implement the resolutions in accordance with the executive program, we ran into several difficulties, not all of which were unanticipated. Actually, we and the participants in the conference expected some difficulties during the implementation. Proof of this is the fact that the conference added a resolution forming a followup committee and placing it at the disposal of President Sarkis to help in overcoming the difficulties which might arise during the implementation.

The prime minister added: As is known, the followup committee was invited to hold its first meeting on 5 December 1978. It was scheduled to hold its second meeting on the morning of Saturday 9 December. The regrettable incident involving the plane carrying two dear Arab ambassadors took place while they were on a tour visiting some political leaders at the request of the committee. The incident led to the suspension of the committee's work until the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recovers. We hope, God willing, that the dear ambassador will recover soon.

Prime Minister al-Huss summed up the difficulties as follows: Regarding the armed manifestations, the Arab Deterrent Forces, the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces were asked, each within the framework of their responsibilities, to move immediately to prevent any kind of armed manifestation, to remove the barriers and confiscate all unauthorized visible or mounted weapons and all military vehicles seen at the barriers. They were also asked to detain violators for investigation in accordance with the laws in force. If these instructions were not fully implemented in some areas, then this is not due to the lack of political guidance but to difficulties in enforcement confronted in these areas. These forces have been authorized to adopt all necessary measures to surmount any difficulties which they might face.

Al-Huss added: The commands of these forces were asked to coordinate among themselves and prepare a timetable for collecting the weapons. The Arab Deterrent Forces Command was asked to prepare a timetable for the implementation of the Riyadh and Cairo conference resolutions. These plans were actually prepared. The main obstacle in the way of implementation is the absence of a regular force to assume the implementation in the area extending between Az-Zahrani and Al-Litani in the south, and the absence of a regular force in some of the eastern areas of Beirut and its suburbs. There were also the inadequate preparations of the Lebanese Army decisively to implement the resolutions in the areas where it is responsible for security tasks. This problem was submitted to the followup committee. However the temporary suspension of the committee's activities has prevented the completion of the discussion of the issue. There is no need to say again that a loosening up of the political situation will invalidate all feeble excuses to retain weapons. Political relaxation will make it easier to remove the armed manifestations. The banning of weapons through the realization of political relaxation, if not a substitute for collecting them, is the soundest and easiest approach to their collection.

The prime minister further said: Regarding the reform of media reporting on state affairs, this step has been obstructed because of the refusal of the owners of the main radio stations to respond to the decision to shut them down. We considered the possibility of forcibly shutting down these radio stations but the military commands decided on a course other than force in the first instance. The followup committee charged the Saudi and Kuwaiti ambassadors with holding contacts with those concerned but the known incident took place before they were able to complete their task.

We asked the Lebanese Army Command to prepare a timetable for rebuilding the army on balanced national bases. I have personally discussed with the army commander a draft plan which he himself had prepared. This plan did not fulfill the objective and I asked him to reconsider it. However, we must not forget that any plan to rebuild the army must be based on a new defense law. The accomplishment achieved by the committee emanating from the national defense, administration and justice committees in preparing a new draft for the defense law means the rebuilding of the army might be sped up.

Prime Minister al-Huss also said: Regarding the dealings with the Israeli enemy, I have communicated to the army command the decision to adopt the necessary measures against the military personnel who deal with the enemy. I also notified the public prosecution that it is necessary to prosecute the civilians who deal with the enemy. Al-Huss added: On this occasion, we reaffirm that we are exerting all possible efforts on the political and diplomatic levels and within the UN framework to avert the danger threatening southern Lebanon as a result of the Israeli overt and continuous aggression.

We all realize that the fate of the south cannot be separated from the fate of Lebanon.

As for the detente formula, the executive program stipulated that the government should submit to the Chamber of Deputies a concept for an overall political settlement. This did not take place, for two reasons. The first is that the discussion of some basic issues has not been completed and therefore we have not yet formulated common concepts regarding these issues. We did, however, in the regime arrive at a common concept regarding many issues. The second is that the dialog within the regime is still revolving around the means for achieving detente. Should the regime submit a detente formula through the present cabinet, so that when the desired political relation is attained it will be possible to form a harmonious coalition cabinet from political elements who approve the formula and then the new cabinet would carry out this formula? Or should the formation of a new cabinet be preceded by a discussion of the detente formula and then the new government would agree on the formula, submit it and then apply it, and in this case what shape will the cabinet take? Will it be a cabinet of national union including among others the parties to the conflict or will it be a coalition cabinet from the moderates?

Prime Minister al-Huss concluded: The formation of a national union government embracing the parties to the conflict may be useful if it were possible but at least two things prevent this. The first is that it is impossible to bring the parties to the conflict together in one cabinet at present in view of the sharp contradictions between their positions. The second is that the cabinet would become a bridge enabling the entry of explosive elements into the government machinery, and this carries its own risks. We believe that the political choice is confined to two possibilities. Either a detente formula is submitted and then a coalition cabinet is formed from the political majority which agrees to adopt this formula, or, a cabinet is formed from the majority of the moderate center, that will itself submit the formula as a prelude perhaps to the formation of a coalition cabinet from the political elements who approve the formula. We do not object to either of these possibilities. The only thing we reject is deadlock. We favor any alternative to deadlock.

PARLIAMENT ADOPTS RECOMMENDATIONS ON BAYT AD-DIN RESOLUTIONS

NC191632Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Today's parliament session ended at 1420 following a discussion on the government statement. Among those who took part in the discussion, were Deputies Albert Mukhaybir on behalf of the Independent Parliamentary Bloc; Sulayman al-'Ali; Phalangist deputy Edmond Rizo; Shaykh Bahij Taqiy ad-Din and Mahmud 'Ammar.

The parliament unanimously approved a recommendation asking the government to implement the Bayt ad-Din resolutions since this will lead to the restoration of effective power in the country, a development which embodies the will of the various Lebanese groups and communities. This is also an essential condition for the continuation of the country's development.

The recommendation called for the implementation [of the Bayt ad-Din resolution] since this emanates from the fact that the legal security forces are composed of the military and internal security forces as well as the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF]. All of these forces constitute an indivisable security unit.

FU'AD BUTRUS RESIGNS DEFENSE PORTFOLIO

NC201252Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1207 GMT 20 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] The cabinet session ended a short time ago. On leaving the palace, Minister Fu'ad Butrus said that he has abandoned the Defense Ministry and that the cabinet has appointed Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri as minister of national defense.

The resignation of the industry and petroleum minister has also been accepted. Minister of Public Works and Tourism Amin al-Bizri has been appointed minister of agriculture, and Minister Dr As'ad Rizq as minister of industry and petroleum.

The prime minister made a statement in which he said: Before moving to its scheduled agenda, the cabinet today discussed yesterday's session of the Chamber of Deputies. The cabinet discussed the positive atmosphere which prevailed at the assembly's discussions and their good effect on the general political situation in the country.

The cabinet also discussed the steps which might be adopted in the light of the discussions of the Chamber of Deputies and of the recommendation it adopted at the end of these discussions.

The cabinet also discussed a number of projects and issues and approved the following:

1. An urgent bill providing for the amendment of some of the provisions of the system of the Ministry of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs;

2. The formation of a committee to carry out the duties of the municipal council in Tripoli under the chairmanship of 'Ashir ad-Dayah and vice chairmanship of Emil Khlat;

3. The formation of a committee to carry out the duties of the municipal council in Sidon under the chairmanship of Ahmad Kalash and vice chairmanship of Najib 'Asir;

4. The appointment of Director General Shafiq (Munaymah), chief of the Legal Affairs Department at the General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office, as member of the higher authority for aid to replace outgoing member Hisham al-Haj;

5. The formation of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab-European dialog under the chairmanship of the director of economic affairs at the Foreign Ministry. The delegation will include representatives of the Development and Reconstruction Board, the Higher Council for Customs, and the Ministries of Economy, Trade, Industry and Oil, and Education.

SECURITY SITUATION 'TENSE' DURING CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES MEETING

NC191340Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[Text] While the Chamber of Deputies was meeting today, the security situation suddenly became tense when the Syrian forces opened fire on the Chevrolet area, causing the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah-Ash-Shiyah front up to Badaru and At-Teyyunah areas to flare up.

At 0900 today, the Syrian forces opened tank fire from their position in Jisr al-Basha in the Chevrolet area. This was accompanied by intensive sniper fire with medium weapons endangering traffic in the Chevrolet area. The tension extended to the whole area in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah front where RPG and anti-armor fire was directed against Sannin, Al-Matahin, Al-Hayat and Mar Marun areas. Heavy explosions and bursts of fire were heard in the At-Tayyunah-Badaru front. Explosions and intensive fire were also heard in Sinn al-Fil, creating a state of alarm which reflected on the movement of traffic and normal activity in the area. Security sources reported that the traffic on Jisr al-Wati has been very light due to sniper fire.

Security reports also say that several shells fell in Al-Hay al-Hadid and that two people from the Nakhlah and Haddad family were wounded in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. In Al-Ashrafiyah area, one shell fell on the public security building near Patisserie Safi in As-Siyufi but caused only material damage. A security source said that the source of fire was a tank positioned in Sinn al-Fil.

Meanwhile, political sources linked the sudden tension with the plan which was due to be implemented today in the Chevrolet area. The plan aims at reopening the road in the area for joint Saudi-internal security forces patrols preparatory to the deployment of regular Lebanese forces all along the road from the Chevrolet area up to the Republican Palace.

FORMER LEBANESE PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON PRESENT SITUATION

NC191638Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] Commenting on the security developments which occurred this morning, Mr Camille Sham'un said: We have received reports indicating that 'Ayn ar-Rummanah has been subjected to shelling and that a bomb fell in the direction of As-Sufi. I am in a position to affirm that we are still adhering to the cease-fire and that no shell or bullet has been fired from our positions.

Concerning the truth of reports about a meeting between Mr Sham'un and the PLO leader, Mr Sham'un replied: I know nothing about this subject. However, I have no objections to meeting any Palestinian authority in order to continue the discussions which we want to follow up, because the discussions which took place in the past might have been beneficial had they continued.

To a question concerning the closing down of the private radio stations, Mr Sahm'un said: If there is any stations that needs closing down, it is the official Lebanese radio. This would allow it to be rectified later and turned into a Lebanese radio in the full sense of the word. If this takes place, then we will close down all the other stations.

TALKS RESUMED WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA; COOPERATION PROGRAM TO BE SIGNED

JN190625Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 19 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1830 today the party and political talks between the delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, and the delegation of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee under Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and secretary of the party Central Committee, were resumed at the National Command Building. The comrade members of the two delegations attended the session.

During this session, the two sides completed their discussion of the topics raised the day before yesterday. These topics are related to friendship and cooperation relations between the two parties and the two countries, as well as to ways of promoting them in the interest of the two parties and the world struggle against imperialism, Zionism and the struggle of peoples for the consolidation of their national independence, development and progress, and for the achievement of a just peace in the world. The viewpoints were identical regarding the topics discussed. The talks were concluded at 2045 today. Agreement was reached on signing a cooperation program between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Czechoslovak Communist Party on Thursday. A joint statement will also be issued at the end of the delegation's visit to Syria.

PAPER URGES UN ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS

JN191010Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 19 Dec--The newspaper TISHRIN today warns of the seriously delicate situation in the Middle East and says the international community is once again facing a critical, delicate and serious Middle East situation that is potentially explosive and that could have effect that spread beyond the borders of this region because of the clash of interests.

The paper affirms that the recent UN General Assembly resolution calling for a Geneva conference to reach a comprehensive Middle East settlement based on complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinians is considered an international declaration of the failure of the U.S. initiative and a censure of the course it has followed, as well as indication of the desire of the international community to seek a new method to achieve a real settlement in the Middle East. TISHRIN says that merely by making such an indication, the overwhelming majority of the UN member states is expressing a desire to seek a way out of the current impasse--hence the special importance of the United Nations' exercising its responsibilities toward peace in the Middle East by ending the stalemate, which was forcibly imposed on the world without any justification. Commenting under the headline "The UN Role After the American Failure," TISHRIN calls on the United Nations to exercise its responsibilities toward the Middle East. The paper says that Syria still believes that the United Nations has an important role to play to save the peace efforts by steering them on the right course, which will prevent the region from falling into the pitfall of clashes and which will open the way for serious action to implement the UN principles and resolutions.

Concluding, TISHRIN says the resolutions of the Baghdad Arab summit conference have given the United Nations a new opportunity to again play its role in the peace efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement with the participation of all the parties concerned to achieve the two conditions of just and lasting peace.

ALGERIA

ALGERIA HOLDS INQUIRY, ARRESTS FIVE IN PLANE INCIDENT INVOLVING MOROCCO

LD192332Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The inquiry on the plane incident of 10 December carried out by the security service proves Morocco's responsibility for aggression and has resulted in the arrest of five individuals implicated in the operation carried out. [Words indistinct] the security service arrested cafe manager Bin Yahya Muhammad as-Sadiq, Sa'di Tahir, Bujallud Abd an-Nour, Hamdi Ahsan, Qadri Ahmad and (Furad) Ajilal. Their task was to receive the arms which were air dropped. For the purpose they lighted six flares to facilitate the drop.

According to the preliminary statements of the accused, it is certain that the air drop operation was organized and [word indistinct] from Morocco by the General Research and Documentation Administration [words indistinct]. Colonel [name indistinct], assisted by Lt Col Husni Mustafa and Major Husayn of the General Research and Documentation Administration, were entrusted with the implementation of this operation. The Hercules C-130 aircraft left the Qunaytirah base with its load. The base is a special base [word indistinct] since the case of the Boeing aircraft in 1972. The plane (?left there) on Sunday, 10 December, at 1930 to fly directly over Cape Sigli at 2230.

Therefore the number and type of persons detained shows how wide the gap is between the Algierian truth and the adventurous dreams of the Moroccan king.

ALGIERS PAPER DISMISSES HITCH IN PEACE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

LD191639Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 15-16 Dec 78 p 1 LD

[Correspondent T.B. article: "Sham"]

[Text] The United States has just received a slap in the face from none other than its great protege, Israel. The American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance returned to Washington emptyhanded after a 5-day shuttle between Cairo and Tel Aviv. The Zionists rejected the latest proposals--despite their American flavor--which should have resulted in the signing of a separate Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty 17 December at the latest--the date fixed by the Camp David agreements and by an ultimatum from President Jimmy Carter.

Yet only the details remained to be settled, and the head of the Egyptian regime, President Anwar as-Sadat, had shown a laxity which has become the predominant feature of his policy toward Israel. Each time Egypt granted concessions, the Zionists demanded further, even more humiliating concessions.

Yesterday the head of the Zionist administration Menahem Begin pushed cynicism--or comedy--so far as to complain about the United States' "discriminatory attitude" because the latter has not yet dared to back all the Israelis' increased demands.

Can one talk of a crisis in American-Israeli relations? To do so would be to forget that Israel is merely an appendage of the United States and that it only dares to be so intransigent and to defy the international community because it is assured of permanent protection from the powerful U.S. umbrella and the Zionist lobby which gravitates around the White House.

However, Washington and Tel Aviv have a different idea of peace in the Middle East. Impelled by their extremist fanaticism, the Zionists intend to annex as much as possible of the territories occupied in June 1967, including Jerusalem. They will thus have created part of "greater Israel," stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates. They do not want a "peace without territories" but "territories without peace" since only this latter situation will enable them to receive regular additional financial support from Zionists abroad.

America's preoccupations are different. It is true that Israel is the main element in U.S. Middle East policy. But the United States intends to consolidate the pro-American camp in the region and even extend it to other Arab countries. And, as reactionary as certain regimes are, they cannot tolerate so many humiliations or renounce the Arab nation's fundamental interests without the risk of being disowned by their peoples. It is the dignity and the existence of the Arab nation which are at stake. The United States ascertained this fact when certain Arab countries on which they were counting refused to rally to the Camp David agreements. The recent Baghdad summit confirmed As-Sadat's isolation to the Americans when it uncovered the plot hatched by Washington, Cairo and Tel Aviv. The summit banished all U.S. hopes of imposing a peace to the detriment of Arab interests.

Yet Washington will not resolve to use the only means left to it to achieve the "pax Americana"--exerting economic and military pressure on Israel. Everyone knows that the latter is dependent on American aid for its survival. Apart from a few recriminations the White House has refused to resort to any pressure. Why? Does it fear the powerful Zionist lobby? Has it other alternative solutions?

In any event, the United States is not prepared to renounce an American-Israeli solution in the Middle East. It has a man--President as-Sadat--who is ready to make any concessions. Did he not promise Mr Vance Thursday evening that "peace will be signed sooner or later, whatever the consequences?"

But one is forced to admit that separate negotiations cannot bring about a solution even if one of the partners, namely, Egypt, surrenders its dignity by accepting a humiliating peace, similar to the one Hitler imposed on Marshal Petain.

The Baghdad summit, which expressed the entire Arab nation's refusal to participate in the Camp David masquerade, showed that there will be no peace without the participation and approval of the PLO.

LIBYAN ARMED FORCES COMMANDER ARRIVES IN ALGIERS

LD200328Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] It was learned that Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, arrived in Algiers today. He was welcomed by Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister.

LIBYA

LIBYA PROMISES TO DETAIN, EXTRADITE FRG TERRORISTS

LD191348Y Hamburg DPA in German 1214 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] Tripoli--Libya will detain and extradite immediately to the Federal Republic German terrorists who make a stopover there. This was the promise made by Libya's secretary of the interior, Yunis Abu al-Qasim, to German journalists in Tripoli. He stated that all border control posts and police authorities have been supplied with search data from the Federal Criminal Investigation Office (BKA) in Wiesbaden. Abu al-Qasim went on to say that the BKA and the Libyan security authorities are exchanging information on a permanent basis.

The Libyan secretary of the interior stressed that his country passes on to the Federal German authorities immediately information on the movements of German terrorists in the Arab world. He announced that Libya will endeavor to win over other Arab states to this form of cooperation. He will raise the subject at the next conference of Arab interior ministers. Abu al-Qasim underlined that the cooperation between the security authorities of the two countries is being carried out with the express approval of head of state Al-Qadhdhafi.

Closer Ties With West

LD191600Y Hamburg DPA in German 1449 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] Tripoli--Libya, one of the world's most important suppliers of oil, apparently intends to loosen its hitherto one-sided political links with the Eastern Bloc and is striving for improved relations with the West. A sure sign of this change of course by head of state Al-Qadhdhafi is that the process of drawing closer to the FRG should come about in spite of the latter's good relations with Israel. The Libyan head of state declared in an interview with German journalists in Tripoli: "This does ; not prevent the further deepening of economic relations and cooperation in the area of security policy.

Head of state Al-Qadhdhafi also made a clear distinction between terrorists and liberation organizations: "One group want to free an occupied country, but terror serves to achieve personal gain, or is only an end in itself," stated Al-Qadhdhafi, who considers terrorists to be "far removed from reality."

JANA CONTINUES REPORT ON PEOPLE'S CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS

Conclusion of 18 Dec Session

LD191030Y Tripoli JANA English 0800 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Dec 19 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY-After the evening prayer's intermission, the congress resumed. The secretary general of the congress referred to the resolutions of the people's congresses in respect to the coastal line where 170 congresses approved the memorandum in question.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1st of September Revolution and secretary general of the General People's Congress, said that "he cannot change the contents of resolutions made by the people's congresses, as opinions are for the masses to submit and not for individuals."

The congress then moved to review the item of authorities and capacities assigned to the General Secretariat where the chairman of the drafting committee read the resolutions of the people's congresses in this respect and said that 179 people's congresses resolved that General People's Congress should appoint the president of the Supreme Court and its judges and the public prosecutor, that is a percentage of 95.72, while two congresses said that the People's Committee to appoint them, one congress suggested that the Justice Supreme Council is responsible for their appointment, and one congress assigned this job to Justice Secretariat.

The secretary general of the General People's Congress noted: "What has been said in this memorandum concerns administrative matters which the Revolutionary Command Council had earlier seen fit to deal with. But when the people had commenced the exercise of power these matters were not within the people's field of specialisation."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi affirmed: "As of now, the General Secretariat will divert its efforts to the practice of revolution. As for other administrative affairs, these will be shared out between the General People's Congress and the People's Committee."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi added: "Concerning the Jamahiriyah Security Organisation, the suggestion is the abolition of this organization because the investigation police and security organs will in future become people's organs. It was therefore the duty of every individual in the Jamahiriyah, and people's power gains."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi added: "These organs were earlier used to protect the government's status and maintain the regime, whether monarchical or republical, but now, power lay in the hands of the people, and they will create these organs from within their ranks. Every person in the Jamahiriyah will find himself obliged to protect himself, his property and his gains from the enemy who is spying on the country."

The session then adjourned at 8:30 p.m. (Jamahiriyah local time) to be resumed tomorrow morning.

19 Dec Morning Session

LD192206Y Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

["Morning session of General People's Congress (1st addendum)"--JANA headline; no earlier report on 19 December session monitored]

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Dec, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The congress then moved to the discussion of the item concerning agreements ratified with friendly and sisterly countries.

The chairman of the drafting committee explained that 178 people's congresses recommended endorsement and ratification of those agreements. Some congresses also demanded an expansion in the signing of such agreements to expand the aspects of cooperation between the Libyan Arab people and friendly and brotherly peoples.

The congress also reviewed the item concerning assistance to the African struggle. The chairman of drafting committee pointed out that 186 people's congresses, equivalent to [word indistinct] had recommended assisting African struggle.

Commenting on these points, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi explained that the reason why the subject was brought up before the people's committees was based on the activity of the 1st of September Revolution in Africa. For, he said, the African countries have become the Arab nation's ally by severing their diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy, hence achieving what Arab diplomacy failed to do over twenty years.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that following the defeated Egyptian president's treason and his recognition of the enemy, attempts would be made by a number of other capitulationist treacherous Arabs to restore the African's recognition of the enemy. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that this meant a relaunching of the struggle once more to safeguard the Arab nation's and Islam's gains in Africa. He remarked that on the other hand, Africa was facing the aggression of racist regimes in southern Africa just as the Arab people were facing racism and Zionism in occupied Palestine. These racist regimes, he went on, constituted the racist Zionists' main ally. Accordingly Colonel al-Qadhdhafi raised the issue of having the Jamahiriyah join the five African countries of confrontation against the racist enemy in Palestine and southern Africa.

The General People's Congress discussed the item on employing teachers during summer holidarys in order to use their services in all sectors. Another item concerning revolutionary agricultural and medical advisors was also discussed.

Dr Muftah al-Usta 'Umar, the health secretary, elaborated on the achievements of the Great 1st of September Revolution in the medical sector which constitutes a model to a great many countries.

Resuming its meeting after a short recess, the congress reviewed the recommendations of the people's congresses concerning the memo on foreign policy dating from the third regular session of the General People's Congress of 1977 until its fourth session of 1978. The head of the drafting committee pointed out that 187 people's congresses had agreed upon the memo with a few additional comments.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1st September Revolution and secretary-general of the General People's Congress, enquired from the secretaries of the congresses about some of the comments made by the people about their congresses. The session was adjourned at 1.15 P.M. to be resumed at 5.00 P.M. Jamahiriyah local time.

19 Dec Evening Session

ID192224Y Tripoli JANA in English 1850 GMT 19 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The General People's Congress resumed its sessions at 5.15 P.M. this evening at the People's Hall in Tripoli, by reviewing the seventh item on the people's congresses agenda with regard to the memorandum related to re-organizing the information and culture sector. It was indicated that 183 congresses have approved the contents of the memorandum concerning the organization of this sector. Reference was also made to the observations and recommendations presented by the masses of the basic people's congresses. They include the formation of a people's committee which would undertake supervision of information sectors instead of an information and culture secretariat, and the press institution, the formation of a people's committees for information at municipalities level from which representatives would be coopted to the higher people's committee for information. The congresses also recommended that the information plan should be basically derived from the spirit of the Holy Koran and Islamic values as well as the interest in mobile cultural units, cultural centres financial support for information [as received] and the establishment of information directorates in municipalities.

The congresses recommended concentration on foreign information, the establishment of specialized institutions for information, and the formation of competent committees for domestic and foreign information.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress, talked on this topic clarifying the prevailing world situation of the mass media. He said: "It is either government-controlled, opposition-controlled, or a commercially-oriented mass media, but our situation in the Jamahiriyah differs from the rest of the world, because the government does not need propaganda any more, nor does any ruler have any personal interest in broadcasting or the press.... If any propaganda should be had, it should be propaganda for the people, it s people's authority, its principles and its stands."

"Therefore, it is the right of every citizen to participate in this activity and present his point of view on its operating methods... because money spent in this field is the people's money."

The session was adjourned for dusk prayers.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1st of September Revolution and secretary general of the General People's Congress, indicated at the end of reviewing the items on the congresses' agenda: "The illness of President Houari Boumediene and the provocations which Algeria faces has an effect on the congress' sessions which are characterised by hastiness."

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced: "Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir has headed for Algiers because what goes on in the Jamahiriyah concerns Algeria, and what goes on in Algeria concerns the Jamahiriyah."

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi affirmed "the Jamahiriyah enjoys an excellent world-wide reputation."

AL-QADHDHAI MEETS WITH PFLP SECRETARY HABASH

LD191900Y Tripoli JANA in English 1712 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, December 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great First of September Revolution and secretary-general of the General People's Congress, received, at the People's Hall in Tripoli this morning, Dr George Habash, the secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, who is visiting the Jamahiriyah to attend the sessions of the General People's Congress.

Receives 'Arafat

LD191902Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--This evening at the People's Hall Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, and the accompanying delegation. Present at this meeting were: Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Lt Colonel Mustaf al-Kharrubi, and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi. 'Arafat attended the evening session of the General People's Congress.

Receives PFLP's Jibril

LD191904Y Tripoli JANA in English 1740 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 19 December, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, leader of the Great 1st September Revolution, this morning received Mr Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Receives POLISARIO Delegation

LD181454Y Tripoli JANA in English 1407 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 18 December, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1st of September Revolution and secretary-general of the General People's Congress, last night received the delegation from Saguia Hamra and Rio de Oro to the General People's Congress sessions.

The meeting which took place at the People's Hall in Tripoli was attended by Staff-Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud. The delegation is headed by Mohammed Abdul-Aziz, The secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia Hamra and Rio de Oro.

SOVIET OFFICIAL LEAVES AFTER ATTENDING CONGRESS SESSIONS

LD192318Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--M. Sergeychik, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations in the Soviet Union, left Tripoli this morning together with the accompanying delegation after a visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which he attended some of the sessions of the General People's Congress.

MOROCCO

MAROC-SOIR REPLIES TO ALGERIAN ACCUSATION ON AIRLIFT

LD191332Y Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Rabat, Dec 18 (MAP)--The semi-official daily MAROC-SOIR, Monday lashed back at Algeria's accusation that Morocco tried to airlift arms and explosives to rebels in Algeria.

The Moroccan newspaper found it "hard to believe that an aircraft of this kind (a C-130 Hercules transport) could travel 500 kilometers into Algerian territory without being detected by a civilian and military radar system that keeps this area of the Mediterranean tightly guarded", as the Algerian Council of the Revolution claimed Saturday.

Observers in Algiers said the arms were for rebels in the Kabylie region, who have long been hostile to central government.

"It is possible, even certain, that the Kabylie opposition has been reinforced, and that armed elements have resumed guerrilla tactics", according to MAROC-SOIR.

By accusing Morocco of furnishing these arms, Algiers seeks "to hide the domestic deterioration and the silent but fierce struggle for succession" to President Houari Boumediene, stricken with a terminal blood disease.

SUDAN

MEETING OF ERITREAN FACTIONS TO BE HELD IN KHARTOUM

JN181118Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 18 December--At the invitation of the Sudanese Government, a meeting will be held in Khartoum within the next few days between all factions of the Eritrean revolution.

It is expected that during this meeting some serious measures will be taken regarding how to reunite the different factions of the Eritrean revolution. The political leaders of the Eritrean factions have arrived in Khartoum to attend this meeting, which will be held under the auspices of the Sudanese Government.

TUNISIA

FOREIGN MINISTER FITOURI ADDRESSES NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

LD191500Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] At the National Assembly this morning a number of deputies spoke during the debate of the Foreign Ministry draft budget for 1979. The deputies were unanimous in commending the farsightedness of Tunisia's foreign policy and its equanimity, which has characterized Tunisia's stand on a number of Arab and international issues under the guidance of President Habib Bourguiba, leader of Tunisia's march of development.

The deputies raised the following subjects: the results of the Baghdad summit; the continental shelf; the role of the commercial attaches; the creation of a Maghreb market; the search for new market outlets in Arab states; Hedi Nouira's visit to the United States; consolidating the commercial attache system; Tunisia and the EEC; the North-South dialog; Tunisia's relations with its neighbours; the results of the OAU summit; protecting the interests of our workers abroad; the Western Sahara; the Eritrean question; and preparations for observing the Second International Women's Year in 1980.

Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri took the rostrum to answer deputies' questions, observations and proposals. He said that a number of the questions raised by deputies were discussed at the meetings of the subcommittee which debated the overall figure of the Foreign Ministry's budget. The minister also talked about the most important points which were raised by the deputies at today's session. At the beginning, he talked about the central issue in the Middle East question and Tunisia's attitude on this issue. He reminded his audience of the courageous stand taken by the Great Fighter in 1965. That stand was rejected by the Arabs at the time, but they endorsed it after the 1967 setback.

He said: We followed the developments in the Camp David talks. He pointed out Tunisia's stand on the agreements which resulted from the Camp David Talks. He said: This stand springs from international legality and from our humanitarian attitude toward the Palestinian issue, because we consider that the resolutions of the United Nations in 1947 recognized the existence of a legal entity of the Palestinian people. There is no justification for the continuing occupation of the territory of others by force. And as the Camp David agreements did not touch on the Palestinian issue and the issue of the city of Jerusalem, which concerns all the Islamic nations, we declared that these agreements do not solve the problem. Time has proved that the Tunisian stand is a proper one and, in any case, the peace agreements have not so far been concluded. The date for signing these agreements has already passed.

Then he talked about the Baghdad summit, which was attended by all the Arab states except Egypt, and said: We believe the meeting was constructive, because there the Arabs agreed to meet under one umbrella and reached agreement on a minimum basis and on the common denominator in their attitude toward the Camp David agreements. It became clear that this attitude reflects the Tunisian attitude, which is based on international legality and which supports the Palestinian issue. The Arab nation is committed to a peaceful solution and the PLO is also committed to this. The Arab states which have funds were called upon to support the confrontation states and they asked Egypt to rejoin the Arab ranks. He said it was Israel's stubbornness which led to the failure of the Camp David agreements and failure to sign them on 17 December, the latest date fixed for their signing. The foreign minister pointed out in this connection that U.S. President Carter firmly believes that it is Israel which bears the responsibility for the failure of the Camp David summit.

Some deputies proposed that a Tunisian initiative be launched to restore the unity of Arab ranks. The minister observed that no one has suggested this even though our relations with all the Arab countries are good. He said: We give our blessing to any effort that may be made in this connection.

Foreign Minister Mohamed Pitouri then talked about the Arab Maghreb issue. He reminded his audience of Tunisia's attitude and opinion on this matter and said that there is a provision for it in the Tunisian Constitution itself. He pointed out the efforts that have been made to bring about cooperation in the economic field. He said it is necessary for us to ask: Has Tunisia done anything that contradicts the idea of the Arab Maghreb? We were one of the first to champion this objective, but our favorable attitude toward this aim has not been matched by other sides. This has caused an imbalance in cooperation and hampered the creation of a Maghreb common market.

As for the Arab common market, it has not been able to stand on its own feet. In actual fact it is directed against the interests of some Arab states. Not only this but it refuses to allow the entry of Tunisian products into the Arab market.

Concerning the continental shelf between Tunisia and Libya, the minister said that Tunisia unilaterally submitted a petition to the International Court of Justice at the Hague on 1 December after we had been (?trying) for a long time to make the Libyan side sign this petition with us.

Concerning Tunisia's attitude toward Arab-African cooperation, he noted Tunisia's continuous support for this cooperation. [break in transmission]

Tunisia has expressed its attitude quite clearly and it affirmed that the people of Eritrea are a legal entity and they have the right to assert themselves as such. Tunisia has not changed its stand. It supports Eritrea's right to self-determination. This attitude accords with the decision (?to uphold self-determination) for other struggling African peoples.

Mohamed Fitouri then talked about Tunisia's relations with Italy in the field of marine fishing. He noted the expiry of the agreement concluded between the two countries in June. It is being renewed through the EEC.

About the North-South dialog, he said that this dialog has produced no important results. It seeks to discuss the new international economic system. [passage indistinct] On this basis that agreement between us be in the form of a development contract, and this is what the negotiations produced. Now Tunisian goods have the right to entry to all the EEC countries, which will help Tunisia realize its development programs. The minister expressed the hope that Tunisian exports will reach the estimates on which we reached agreement in Brussels, within the framework of the cooperation council, and that despite the fact that other European countries which produce olive oil are going to join the EEC, Tunisian olive oil will have (?access) to the EEC market.

With regard to financial cooperation, five agreements will be signed shortly to implement Tunisian projects and they will be followed by other agreements. In regard to the question of EEC expansion, our relations are very good with Spain, Greece and Portugal--the three countries which intend to join the EEC. There is no doubt that this will present new problems which should be studied as of now so that our products are not exposed increasingly to competition within the market countries.

Mohammed Fitouri praised the good results of Prime Minister Hedi Nouira's recent official visit to the United States.

The morning session of the National Assembly ended about 5 minutes ago and the assembly will continue its work this afternoon to debate the draft budget of the Ministry of Agriculture.

WESTERN SAHARA

MINISTER CRITICIZES MAURITANIA, SAYS TALKS HAVE RESUMED

LD141529Y Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Dec 78 p 9 LD

[Daniel Junqua Algiers report: "Talks Between Mauritania and POLISARIO Resume in African Capital"]

[Excerpt] The Mauritanian Government and POLISARIO leaders continue to play the subtle chess game which started in July 1978 after President Ould Daddah's overthrow and continued immediately after the front's unilateral decision to declare a cease-fire. On 4 December Bachir Mustapha Sayed, deputy secretary general of the Samaran organization, accused the Nouakchott leaders of breaking off "unilaterally and indefinitely the "negotiations" which were started in October and which took place successively in Paris, Tripoli, Bamako and another friendly African capital whose name has remained unmentioned.

During the last meeting the two sides agreed to meet again at the end of November. On the appointed day the Saharans realized that their interlocutors had not arrived. They immediately drew from this a conclusion which was disputed by Nouakchott as early as 5 December. The Mauritanians stated that they were surprised by the front's accusations and asserted that they certainly intend to pursue a "policy of dialog" which had been concretized through "preliminary contacts." For Nouakchott refuses to talk about "negotiations."

Be that as it may, to improve the atmosphere and resume the game, the Mauritanians decided on 7 December to release 50 civilian and military Saharan prisoners, most of whom were taken prisoner in the fighting at La Guera in December 1975.

The front leaders dispute the reality of this humanitarian operation which, they believe, is mainly aimed at publicity. "The release of people from their cells in order either to continue to detain them in a country which is not theirs or to send them back to their native city which has been turned into a concentration camp can only be seen as a propaganda move and not as genuine release," Mohamed Ould Salek, "information minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic," told us. But despite this new disagreement, the minister told us that "negotiations" resumed this week in an African capital whose name he refused to divulge.

What can be expected from these new contacts? Asked about this, Ould Salek did not try to conceal his pessimism. Nouakchott's new masters, he stated, have so far made no concrete gesture in reply to the peace initiative taken by the front on 12 July. Their statements have remained "ambiguous and contradictory." And they even voted, during recent discussions at a UN fourth committee meeting, against a resolution put forward by Algeria and 18 other countries even though it welcomed the cease-fire decided upon by the POLISARIO. The cease-fire, the minister told us, is being maintained and there is no intention for the time being of going back on this decision.

WEIZMAN ORDERS CESSATION OF SINAI EVACUATION

TA200810Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Two days ago Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman ordered the cessation of the evacuation of the equipment from the Sinai in the wake of the crisis in the peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Our military correspondent Roni Dani'el reports that over the last 2 days the evacuation campaign, which was intended to save transportation and shorten the duration of the evacuation after the signing of the peace agreement, has been stopped. In the course of the campaign nonessential equipment and equipment about which a decision had been made in the past was evacuated.

JERUSALEM REPORTS 19 DECEMBER KNESSET SESSION

Begin Address

TA191425Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1303 GMT 19 Dec 78 TA

[Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin statement to the Knesset in Jerusalem--live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, Knesset members: What were we, and are we, ready to sign, what can we not and will we not be able to sign?

On 21 November 1978, we decided that if the other party was ready to agree to what we were, we would sign the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt as consolidated on 11 November, following lengthy and tiring negotiations between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations with the help, knowledge and full consent of the U.S. delegation. This peace treaty includes Article XI [number as heard, presumably VI]]which includes two major paragraphs. Paragraph 2 says: The parties agree to fulfill in good faith their obligations according to this treaty, without regard to the action--or inaction--of any other party, and independently of any document which is external to this treaty.

Paragraph 5: Subject to Article 103 of the UN Convention, in the event of a conflict between the parties' obligations and their other obligations, the obligations as per this treaty will be binding and will be implemented.

Paragraph 2 of Article XI [number as heard] has but one meaning: the peace treaty stands on its own feet. It is not conditioned upon what has been done--or has not been done--by this or another party. And I shall give an example: At Campt David, Egypt and Israel both invited three other Arab countries, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, to join the peace-making process. Niehter Egypt nor Israel can force these three countries, Israel's neighbors, to do so. The same applies to the autonomy arrangements which involve a constitution dealing with the elections and holding elections. We, of course, wish to implement this part of the Camp David accords, but things are not dependent either on us or on Egypt.

In Paragraph 2 we made the commitment that the peace treaty will stand regardless of what any party does or refrains from doing, and that is why we cannot accept a list of Egyptian interpretations for that paragraph of Article XI [number as heard] backed by the U.S. administration, saying: The contents of Paragraph 2 of Article VI in this treaty will not be understood as contradicting the fact that this treaty was made in connection with a comprehensive peace arrangement according to the instructions of the framework for peace in the Middle East agreed upon at Camp David.

In other, simpler, words: According to this list of interpretations, which is supposed to be an annex to the peace treaty and which was submitted to us for the first time last week, the peace treaty would not stand on its own feet, and the other party would be able--any time it reached the conclusion that it was worth doing so--to claim that a comprehensive peace had not been reached and, therefore, the peace treaty as it would be signed, would not be valid.

Paragraph 5, for which the U.S. administration provided legal interpretation, says: The questions raised in connection with Article VI refer to the result of the treaty on mutual--or collective--defense and security agreements of the parties. We were specifically asked whether Article VI would prevent Egypt from lending a hand to a country with which Egypt has a mutual defense or security agreement--or a collective one--in the event that country is a victim of armed aggression. The answer is that Article VI has no such result.

I have read from that list of interpretations compiled by the State Department adviser which was given to Egypt several weeks ago and which came to our knowledge only last week. What is the meaning of this authorized U.S. announcement? The treaty we were about to sign with Egypt is a peace treaty. If, in paragraph 5, it says that when there is a contradiction between the parties' other commitments--whatever they are--and the commitments according to this treaty, the commitments according to the bilateral Egyptian-Israeli treaty will be the ones which will be binding and would be carried out, we can be assured that we indeed signed a peace treaty with Egypt. On the other hand, if it says that in the event that an Arab country with which Egypt is connected in a collective or mutual agreement should be a victim of war, then the commitment according to that treaty--with a third, fourth or fifth country, and so on--will be effective, and not the peace treaty with Israel, then that treaty ceases to be a binding peace treaty with Israel.

True, the words "a victim of armed aggression" are positive, nice and even acceptable words, but first of all, we--the State of Israel--have no such treaties with any other country. The reference is only to the other party, to Egypt. However, we all have the experiences of this generation, especially in the Jewish state. Well, there were cases in which we were clearly attacked, and yet it was claimed that we attacked. There is a problem of decisions made in various summits according to which our very presence, whether on the Golan Heights or in Judaea and Samaria, is aggression, and therefore, anyone who attacks the aggressor carries out--so to speak--an act of self-defense, and if Israel withstands such aggression....

[Likud MK Moshe Shamir interrupts] Mr Prime Minister, did that include the Sinai as well?

[Begin] Yes.

[Shamir] You have not mentioned the Sinai. Why? I am asking whether this included the Sinai as well?

[Begin] I am prepared to answer the question in the affirmative. Is that OK? Are you satisfied? I meant to give an example, and I did. There is no need to get mad.

Then we will be in a position whereby, in fact, the defensive party might be accused of aggression. Things like this have already happened, and this is our experience. In fact, all these mutual defense agreements, all the security arrangements, are treaties against Israel. They are signed between Egypt and the Baghdad treaty countries. There is such a treaty between Egypt and Syria, between Egypt and Jordan, between Egypt and Iraq, between Egypt and Saudi Arabia and between Egypt and all the various other Arab League countries. That is why this interpretation, too, makes Paragraph 5 of Article XI of the proposed peace treaty devoid of all content.

As for Paragraph 4 of Article IV in the peace treaty--which states that the security arrangements provided for in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article may at the request of either party be reviewed and amended by mutual agreement of the parties--we have heard an argument according to which the Egyptians interpret these words that we will be able to reject outright a request or a proposal to discuss changing these arrangements. I would like to announce from this podium that we have never had such an intention. If there is a need to clarify the real intention, then if the Egyptians one day ask to discuss the security arrangements, we will be ready to discuss this with them. Of course, a change can only take place with the consent of the two parties. However, the Egyptian list of interpretations submitted to us--again, with U.S. support--says: Paragraph 4 of Article IV will be understood to mean that the reassessment, as determined in this article, will be carried out at the soonest, and that the change can take place only by mutual consent of the parties; let it be accepted that such a reassessment will be effective after the treaty has been in effect for 5 years. We do not accept this addition.

There is no precedent for a peace treaty to include time determinations. There are treaties in which temporary arrangements which include a period of time are made, according to which, prior to the end of the binding period, it is possible to announce the cancellation of the treaty. However, there is no such precedent in peace treaties. It is signed as such forever. This is why we are not accepting the list of interpretations which includes the determination that a reassessment must take place 5 years after the treaty is signed.

It was agreed between us that we would exchange ambassadors. This is stated in Article I of Annex III in the following words: The parties agree to establish diplomatic and consular relations and to exchange ambassadors upon completion of the interim withdrawal, that is to the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line. In connection with this mutual commitment, a letter from President Carter addressed to me was to have been received, saying: I have received a letter from President as-Sadat to the effect that within 1 month after Israel has completed its withdrawal to the interim line in the Sinai, as determined in the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, Egypt will send a resident ambassador to Israel and will be grateful to you if you could confirm that this procedure will be acceptable to the Israeli Cabinet.

It is acceptable. However, in the meantime, we have received another draft of Article I of Annex III, and it says: The parties agree to establish diplomatic and consular relations upon the completion of the interim withdrawal, and afterward to exchange ambassadors. At the same time, we received a draft of the following letter, which was written on 12 December by President as-Sadat to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, saying: In reply to your request, I can confirm that within 1 month after the self-rule administration, which may first be established in the Gaza District as a step toward the full implementation of the Camp David framework, is inaugurated, Egypt will send a resident ambassador and will receive an Israeli resident ambassador in Egypt. This is a fundamental change.

According to the agreement which had been reached and according to Annex III--as well as in President Carter's letter which was about to be sent to me--it had been determined that 1 month after the completion of the withdrawal of our forces to the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line, there would be an Egyptian ambassador in Israel and an Israeli ambassador in Egypt.

Now, this promise has been cancelled and the exchange of ambassadors will be connected to the establishment of the autonomy, either in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, or at least in Gaza.

The Egyptians, as we have heard, explain this change in that, with reference to the period of 3 to 9 months, we supposedly promised them to have shortened the withdrawal stages and that the cabinet decided otherwise and cancelled the promise given to them. The truth is this: During the negotiations, as sometimes happens, our representatives talked about the possibilities of shortening the time of pulling our forces back in the first interim stage: instead of 9 months, 6 months; perhaps even instead of 3 months, 2 months. All this is true. No minutes were taken about this. In the midst of the negotiations, the cabinet discussed this issue and decided that it could not take upon itself shortened, predetermined stages of withdrawal, but it agreed to set up a joint Egyptian-Israeli committee which would discuss this issue in accordance with the cabinet decision.

There is no connection between this issue and the mutual relations between Egypt and Israel. The exchange of ambassadors is merely a bilateral problem between two countries. It has clearly been agreed, as I have proved by the documents, that on a certain date the ambassadors would be exchanged. Now we are required to agree that the exchange of ambassadors be contingent upon the establishment of the autonomy, at least in Gaza. We cannot, under any circumstances, link the two things, which cannot be linked at all, because the issues are different and that is why we have not accepted this Egyptian proposal as supported by the United States.

In addition to this, we have recieved a draft letter--it is still not clear whether this is supposed to be a unilateral letter or an exchange of letters or a letter which will be written by the President of the United States--however, I would like to say that in this letter there is an attempt to impose a special Egyptian guardianship over the Gaza Strip. According to the Camp David accords, such a guardianship has never been agreed upon, it has not even been mentioned. There are also two other transgressions from the Camp David accords in this same letter. However, the essence of this letter is to set a date for implementing autonomy and for holding elections for self-administration, as agreed upon at Camp David.

Mr Speaker, the cabinet unanimously decided to reject any idea of any kind of date with reference to the implementation of autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. As I said before, we want to carry out and fulfill the Camp David accords. We signed it, and our signature is our commitment. However...

[MK Tawfiq Tubi interrupts] Have you not reached the conclusion that all these difficulties arise from the nonrecognition of the Palestinian Arab people's rights? Reach a conclusion, reach a conclusion from this!

[Begin] We have reached a conclusion and we are continuing to pursue our path rather than your path.

[Indistinct interruption]

[Speaker Shamir] Knesset members, I would request you to refrain from exchanging remarks.

[Begin] The cabinet has unanimously decided not to accept the proposal of a date, not even of a date called the target date. The reason is crucial. It is true that there is a need to have a constitution for elections and it is necessary to know the composition of the administrative council, it is necessary to determine the authority and responsibility [of that council], it is necessary to determine the security arrangements for the interim period and for the period beyond the 5 years agreed upon as the interim period for Israel and its neighbors. Many details must be decided upon, and elections must be held. However, in order to hold elections, it is first of all necessary to have people to vote and candidates.

Today, after all that has happened in the last few months, we can say for the moment there are neither the former nor the latter, because there is intimidation, and there are things [which prove the existence of] objections to...

[MK Wilner interrupts] It is not due to intimidation, it is because you want to continue the conquest and under conquest there are no elections, there is no freedom and the Palestinian people want an independent state, then there will be elections. All this hair-splitting! Article V, Article VI, this is all avoiding the issue.

[Speaker Shamir] Knesset members, I would like to have quiet. Quiet please.

[Begin] Mr Me'ir Wilner, we do not want...

[Indistinct interjections from the hall]

[Begin] Mr Wilner, we do not want any conquest.

[Unidentified Knesset member] The one who shouldn't be worred is you, Wilner.

[Begin] Eretz Yisra'el is our country, but I would like you to have a look at the map of Eastern Europe and see how many conquests the Soviet Union has carried out...

[MK Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino interrupts] Your job is being done by someone else for you, MK Wilner.

[Begin] And it is still holding on to it this very day. Take a look at the map of Eastern Europe, and don't preach to us.

[Unidentified MK, presumably Charlie Biton, interrupts] It is not necessary to go very far to see the existing conquest here, only several meters away from this building. This is the conquest which currently interrupts peace.

[Begin] There is intimidation. Things are outside the supervision of the Egyptian president and outside the supervision of the Israeli Cabinet; even if it is called a target date, it is a date. And not only would it not bring any good, but on the contrary, it would do a lot of harm because toward the date there would be increased intimidation [of the local Arabs] and we would like to carry out what we take upon ourselves. That is why we have all unanimously decided that we will not accept what is called here a target date, which is 12 months: the end of 1979. We now have proof by experience. At Camp David, the two countries agreed to what was originally called a target date, namely, that within 3 months after the signing of the agreement we would sign a peace treaty. There were prolonged negotiations, conducted by men who represented both countries, and thus, not by our fault--I shall proceed to deal with this issue--we were ready to sign the peace treaty of 11 November, but the peace treaty was not signed after 3 months and there are those who blame Israel for not fulfilling the target date.

This was in the hands of the two sovereign countries, in the hands of the two cabinets. They were to conduct the negotiations, and their representatives indeed conducted the negotiations. This is the lesson, that even what is called a target date might prove to be an obstacle and we could not accept any target date, as we decided.

Mr Speaker, our cause is just. If things had depended on us, the peace treaty of 11 November would have been signed between 18 November and this date. We could have signed that treaty every day since 18 November and it would have been signed. We have sacrificed for peace, sacrifices which were very painful. Not only will I not deny this, but I will be the first to admit it. We want peace and believe in peace, but we are not prepared to sign a peace which is rendered devoid of content by what is called lists of interpretations because this is a matter of life and death for us. Someone may claim: It is always possible to violate a treaty. This is true, and there have been treaties which have been violated and the members of our generation remember them, but there is no one who could demand that we endanter Israel's security with our own hands, that we sign a treaty which is not a peace treaty, whose major article are devoid of content, which is connected by an umbilical cord to a comprehensive arrangement which is not completely in our hands but is in the hands of other elements which, according to the same lists of interpretations for Paragraph 5, might create a situation in which one of the enemies should wage a war against us--and we still have some enemies in the north and in the east even after signing the peace treaty with Egypt--a southern front might be opened as well. That is why our cause is just, and we will insist on it.

[MK Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino interrupts] Mr Prime Minister, if you please, one question.

[Begin] Yes, ma'am.

[Arbeli-Almozlino] Is it possible to sign peace treaties without knowing what the autonomy is?

[MK Yosi Sarid interrupts] It is, it is. Believe me, it is possible. If one wants to know [what the autonomy is] before, there will not be a peace agreement.

[Unidentified Knesset member] Yosi, since when are you the prime minister?

[Unidentified Knesset member] [It is impossible] to sign when one does not know what peace is.

[Unidentified Knesset member] If you continue like this, he [presumably MK Yosi Sarid] will be the next prime minister.

[Begin] Madam, I--on behalf of the Israeli Cabinet--signed the Camp David agreement. The Knesset approved it by a vast majority. We want to keep our word.

[Indistinct interjection by MK Me'ir Pa'il]

[Unidentified Knesset member] Is it we who are not fulfilling it, Me'ir Pa'il, are we the ones who are dishonest?

[Begin] We want to fulfill our promise. I am answering Mrs Almozlino and I would ask you not to interrupt me while answering. Besides, shouting is not at all convincing, Mr Pa'il.

We want to fulfill...

[MK Me'ir Pa'il interrupts] What will convince you is U.S. pressure, not shouts. They will pressure you quietly, quietly.

[Apparently MK Almozlino replies to MK Pa'il]

[Begin] Thank you very much, Mrs Almozlino. I would like to reply to you. The Knesset, by a vast majority, approved the Camp David accords. These accords are binding on the Israeli Cabinet and the entire State of Israel and we want to fulfill it.

[MK Wilner interrupts] What are the Camp David accords? Nobody knows.

[Begin] They comprise three parts: a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, an invitation to other neighbors of Israel to join the peace-making process and the establishment of an administrative autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. We would like to fulfill all three parts. If we are able to, we will fulfill them and there will be real peace in the entire area, as we believe and hope, a real peace. However, this depends on parties, not only on us.

Now, you will permit me...

[MK Almozlino interrupts] What is the autonomy?

[Unidentified Knesset member interrupts] Without a Palestinian state there will not be peace. You are ignoring the important things, there won't be peace, this is an illusion.

[Begin] Mr Speaker, I would like to repeat my main announcement. Today we are also prepared to sign the peace treaty as consolidated on 11 November with Egypt. However, these lists of interpretations supported by the U.S. administration have not made it possible for the Israeli Cabinet to do so, nor will they permit it to do so in the future either. We must be prepared, with all the friendship that exists between ourselves and the United States and with all recognition of the existing and continuing mutual aid between the United States and the State of Israel, we must be prepared to reject Egyptian demands which endanger the well-being of our people even if they are supported by the U.S. administration, until the U.S. administration recognizes its mistake, because the State of Israel is an important element in the free world and must not be weakened, but must be further strengthened, as many important and great men in the United States are saying these very days.

[Unidentified Knesset member interrupts] What about the publicity campaign?

[Begin] I can tell the Knesset that in this campaign over a just cause we are not alone. Not only are our people throughout the world today at the side of the State of Israel, but enlightened people also say that Israel has been accused for no reason and it was blamed for no reason for the fact that the peace treaty was not signed by 17 December. It was prepared to sign it, but the other party--by its proposals which transgress the framework of the Camp David agreements and which are not included in it or which make the major points of the peace treaty valueless--it is the other party which prevented the signing, and total responsibility for not signing the peace treaty to this day rests upon it.

Mr Speaker, the State of Israel will not sign a treaty with Egypt for non-peace. The State of Israel will sign a peace treaty with Egypt.

Peres Knesset Speech

TA191655Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1336 GMT 19 Dec 78 TA

[Speech by Israeli Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres at the Knesset in Jerusalem--live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, Honorable Knesset: Today's political discussion is being held in the shadow of statements by the U.S. President and by a senior official aboard the secretary of state's plane. These were tough and one-sided statements, statements that are meant to have or are liable to have a number of grave ramifications in regard to peace as well as in regard to the State of Israel.

First, they attempt to describe the positions of Israel in a one-sided way as if Israel was now the only one being stubborn in the negotiations. Their purpose is to turn world and U.S. public opinion against the State of Israel.

Second, they of necessity engender further intransigence and ramifications in regard to Egypt's positions, and this in the final stages of the negotiations when they are not far from completion. I am certain that Egypt cannot be more flexible than the United States, when the United States is adopting such Egyptian or pro-Egyptian positions.

Third, they create the impression that Israel is acting under external pressure or subject to such pressure or surrendering to such a pressure, as if what is guiding us is not our just will or our internal conviction. Israel is not acting according to justice, but according to pressure.

Israel made very substantial concessions in these negotiations, but it is incorrect to say that only Israel has conceded. Israel has already taken real security risks in the Sinai sector and, in my opinion, also in the sector of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Israel fought alone in five wars. It was only its own soldiers who decided the outcome of war, and Israel's statesmen must translate what has been achieved through so many sacrifices into a political reality whose front is peace, whose framework is independence and whose foundation is an ability for self-defense.

We respect the United States and strive for its friendship. However, friendship--yes, dependence--no; influence--yes, dictates--no; debate--yes, surrender--no. Democratic Washington knows well that another democratic country, even if it is smaller than the United States, is also entitled and must maintain its right to say no to Washington, even if it is larger and stronger than we are. In the past, when we were striving toward agreements, we did not hesitate to say no to the Americans when the issue affected the security of Israel and its future. There would be no sense in concealing the fact that Israel is a democratic country which holds various opinions regarding the negotiations; differing opinions, but the majority view is committing. The Alinement faction, which is striving toward peace, rejects the government's peace plan. Therefore, in Israel there are at least two opinions regarding the peace. However, when there is external pressure, then there is only one Israel, a united one; one Israel, which rejects such pressure; one Israel, which rejects being split according to external pressures. We also shall reiterate our opinion in today's debate, but on no account shall we disrupt the democratic processes. And we shall not lend a hand in weakening this government's lawful authority to conduct the negotiations.

Mr Speaker, today we also believe that As-Sadat's initiative in coming to Jerusalem was a blessed and important initiative which opened new horizons. But we also believe that at least two demands which Egypt recently added make the negotiations doubly difficult: first because of the date Egypt postulated after the negotiations at Blair House, and particularly because of the content of those demands, which gravely affect the Camp David accord which, in any case, had been plagued with no small difficulties.

One demand is to make the appointment of the Egyptian ambassador contingent upon the holding of elections in Judaea and Samaria or, at least, in Gaza. When the peace agreement with Egypt is signed, we should foresee what reports will be reaching Israel for 9 months without respite, what pictures Israel's citizens will be receiving: A consistent withdrawal from one camp after the other in Sinai. We, together with the nation, shall have to live through a difficult time of tangible concessions, while Egypt will sit and wait until the end of this withdrawal to the middle line in the Sinai. The first meaningful public step, which also has symbolic value, that Egypt has to make will be made only after 10 months, 9 months plus 1 month. And this step is the appointment of an ambassador. If the appointment of an ambassador is also postponed, then, in my view, many people in Israel and abroad will feel that what is demanded of Israel is not in proportion to what is asked of Egypt in the first period of the agreement.

In my view, the second matter is the matter of the reasoning; that is to say, not Article II, but the reasoning of the Americans. After having listened well to the prime minister's statement, I wish to say: the Americans are saying that actually during the discussions at Blair House the Israeli delegation agreed to expedite the stages of withdrawal in Sinai and to hand over Al-'Arish at an earlier date. According to the Americans, Egypt now contends that Israel has reneged, as it were, on that position. If I heard the prime minister correctly today, Israel did not reject the promise of more rapid withdrawal, but suggested that the issue be examined within the framework of a joint Egyptian-Israeli committee. I do not see anything grave in this and, in my opinion, the two issues, both the more rapid withdrawal and the matter of renouncing the conditions of the appointment of the ambassador on this withdrawal, have to be carried.

The second difficult point concerns Article VI. Here I definitely agree with the opinion of the government. Egypt reasons that it does not want to appear in the eyes of the Arab world as if its agreement with Israel takes priority over its former agreements with other Arab countries, lest it be thought that Israel is privileged in the eyes of Egypt and the Arab states are less important. But what Egypt actually asked for, and what the United States agreed to, is to make a distinction in the matter of war, a distinction between a defensive war and an offensive war. I do not know a single aggressor who, before an attack, has not donned a defensive cloak, who has not asserted that he was on the defensive. Hence, in my opinion what Israel is demanding is not that it would have preference over Arab countries; what Israel is truly demanding is that peace should be preferred over war, that the peace agreement receive priority over any agreement conducive to war, no matter what the reason for that war. If one says: No more war, this means no more agreements conducive to war. In any case, Israel pledged--it has already been stated by MK Rabin and in a number of previous agreements, in the truce agreements, in the cease-fire agreements, in the disengagement agreements--that we do not intend to resume shooting and that we are not aspiring to war of any kind.

Mr Speaker, as has been said, the Alinement faction is not in opposition to peace, but in opposition to the peace plan of the government. I am obliged to say, because these words are also being heard abroad, that we have here a problem in explaining our position. There is a plan which the Alinement favors consistently without change, a plan which suffered neither erosion nor deviations. The Alinement, as a parliamentary opposition, must refer to the various stages of the government plan that we are totally rejecting...

[Indistinct interjection]

Yiga'el, if you really would like to understand, I'll explain it to you. The Alinement has two commitments: one for peace...

[Interjection by unidentified MK] He was in opposition from the very beginning.

and the second for the peace plan. The Alinement did not win a majority in the Knesset. In the case of Camp David--you really had better listen for once--in the case of Camp David--with your assistance--the unsuitable party won the majority and, accordingly, the unsuitable peace plan won the majority. The Alinement had to decide what was more important: the peace move--although the Alinement rejected its plan--or a peace plan that would destroy the prospects for peace. We decided then that, even though we are rejecting the peace plan, we shall not delay, we shall not constitute an obstacle to peace only because we are a minority in the parliament. We explained this and we are not ashamed. We also said it. I also want to say that I also believe today that the Alinement peace plan is that which answers for Israel's future, for its security requirements. Today I can say with even more confidence: It would be better in leading to a peace agreement with the Arabs than the autonomy plan.

What is the problem with the autonomy plan? There are members here who honestly believe that the autonomy plan is a plan leading toward peace. It emerged that it is not a conductor but an obstacle, not one obstacle, but a number of obstacles. Not only a number of obstacles, but a number of obstacles sown with mines. How did that sapper put it? This is a vocation that has no future. You defuse one mine, you find a second. Statistically, one of them will explode.

[Interjection by unidentified MK] What is your plan?

I shall explain. The plan of the Alinement is that the better part of Sinai should be returned to Egypt and that we should insist on defensible borders with the settlements; to this end, the Rafah approaches. In our view--Pesah [Grupper], since you are a farmer--in our view, the Rafah approaches settlements plus Yamit. The reason for their establishment was the defense of the southern border of the State of Israel.

[Interjection by MK Moshe Shamir] So why did you forsake them? Why did you lend a hand in abandoning them? You constructed them.

The difference between you and me lies in the fact that yours is a Torah of Moses that is unchangeable. I see a need to relate to realistic political situations. When the government signed and returned from Camp David, the problem, in my view, was different.

First of all, I also want to say here quite candidly: The opposition also has, I believe, the obligation to give the government the opportunity to act. This is my opinion.

[Indistinct interjection]

Mr Deputy Prime Minister, on the eve of the vote we elaborated our reservations quite clearly here in the Knesset. We also submitted our own proposal, which was defeated. We submitted our own proposal, which was against the evacuation of the settlements, and it was by your vote that it was defeated.

[Indistinct interjections]

I also believe that it would have been possible to maintain the airfields until the end of the peace process with the Arab countries had it not been for our several foolish acts, including one action that damaged us and that has gone unexplained until today, namely, the establishment of 15 would-be settlements--towers in the air--in the midst of the negotiations--unnecessarily and without logic, we damaged ourselves.

[Indistinct interjections]

The Alinement believes that, in the long run, Judaea, Samaria and Gaza need a different and unambiguous plan, and this plan is also feasible.

We believe that there is no sense in or possibility of maintaining Israeli control over the whole of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. We are aware of this and I repeat this today before the elections and in the midst of the negotiations: some 1.1 million Arabs, with a natural population increase of 20,000 to 25,000 children per year, live in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. This is not a static situation. One cannot escape from it. They desire and, in my view, are also entitled--the greater part of them--to live under an Arab rule rather than under Jewish rule. I am saying this as a Jew, not an Arab. We do not want to rule them or their offspring, but we want to rule in those areas that are vital to Israel so that they are unable to attack us and so that, if they attack us, we will be able to defend ourselves. Our logic is a defensive one. We also insist on territorial changes: no return to the 1967 borders. We said it before the elections, after the elections and also today.

[Interjection by unidentified MK] How should Gaza be partitioned?

I believe that in Gaza one has to insist...

[Indistinct interjection]

I am answering you...

[Indistinct interjection]

Gentlemen, the example given by the prime minister, that a territorial compromise is one half of a paper...

[Indistinct interjection]

We are not seeking a territorial compromise. Nonesense: we are seeking defensible borders. This is the territorial logic. We do not want to tear a paper in half.

[Indistinct interjection]

In the Gaza Strip we desire a buffer zone defended by the IDF so that Egyptian tanks will not be opposite Ashqelon and Ashdod.

[Indistinct interjections]

We hold this view for moral, political and military reasons; moral because, in our opinion, Israel must not--if it is not militarily imperative--rule another nation. We want a democratic country with a clear and explicit Jewish majority.

I also want to say another thing. We mourned Golda Meir some time ago. That generation brought to Israel the concept of Hebrew labor. Why? Were there not Arabs in Israel at that time? We wanted a society in which the Jews serve themselves, work their own fields, work their own factories, defend themselves; not two societies, when the society that is doing the more simple work also belongs to another nation. We see what this is doing to us and what it is doing to them.

Our settlement project in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza and the Golan Heights is not meant to gain control over another people. Neither is it aimed at conquering other territories. We gave up the largest territory of them all: Sinai. The settlement project is designed to insure our own security, something we have learned from five bitter wars with heavy sacrifices. Jordan attacked us twice. Did we attack Jordan even once? Did we provide it? Did not the prime minister of the national unity cabinet, the late Eshkol, write two letters to Husayn saying: Do not budge and we will not budge, even though Jerusalem is so dear to us. On behalf of the members of the Likud, I'm praising them for it.

Now, I would like to say that, in my opinion, Resolution 242, which has been accepted by Jordan--and one must not discount its delegation--and which has also been accepted by Egypt, does not deny Israel the right to defensible borders. Neither does it order Israel to evacuate all the territories. That is why we regarded it as the basis on which to conduct negotiations. That is what we insisted upon and that is what we will continue to insist upon. Neither am I denying--and I have said this many times and I will say it again in this debate--that perhaps at this moment it is impossible to draw such a map. We have not rejected an interim solution with an announcement in advance that this was our intention because, if today the Israeli Cabinet told the Arabs that it did not intend to remain in all the territories but only had defensible borders in mind, the entire negotiations, in my estimation, would move in a different direction.

If the question is whether this is attainable, my reply is affirmative. I know that the foreign minister asked the Egyptian delegation at Leeds Castle: Do you accept a territorial compromise? They said: No. One can then say: the prime minister asked the Egyptian prime minister--the Egyptian president--Do you accept the autonomy? He said: Yes. It is true that the title given by the government is better than that given by the Alinement. When it comes to the articles, what you think the articles are concerning the autonomy is unacceptable, and what we think the articles are concerning the territorial compromise is acceptable.

[Interjection by unidentified MK] What is the territorial compromise with respect to Gaza and the Golan Heights?

I would like to say: Ask the foreign minister.

[Interjection by unidentified MK] MK Peres, from which leader have you heard...

Ask the foreign minister. You are interrupting too much. Excuse me. I am prepared to answer one or two questions.

[Interjection by unidentified MK] What is the territorial compromise with respect to the Golan Heights and Gaza?

I am first of all talking about Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Ask the Egyptian foreign minister or the Egyptian president whether he accepts an autonomy, whether he agrees to an autonomy whereby public lands will be in our hands, whereby the settlements will have a special status--and on this, in my opinion, we should insist--and whereby we later demand Israeli sovereignty. What would an Egyptian have replied to our foreign minister? Yes or no? But Egypt itself proposed a formulation which I can either like or dislike. At Camp David it said: In determining the future boundaries of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the two main considerations will be the aspirations of the Palestinians and the security needs of Israel.

I am not saying that this is a Jewish formulation, but this is a formulation very close to a territorial compromise, very close. We have rejected it. Who asked autonomy from us? The United States? Egypt? Is the autonomy we requested, Mr Prime Minister, the autonomy which you received? They are not even similar. For what you propose even today--and I say this with respect--the English word is self-governing authority, and the prime minister calls it an administrative autonomy.

The distance between Hebrew and English is not a linguistic issue but a political one.

[Indistinct interjection]

The Camp David agreements are written in English, MK Nissim, and it is written that the English language is the one that binds. It is stated: The self-governing authority. Why do you have to argue in vain?

[Indistinct interjection]

Did As-Sadat ask it of us? As-Sadat was happy with the Vienna document.

[Interjection by unidentified MK] It is not written like that. Read it. Ask someone to translate it for you.

[Interjection by unidentified MK] By the way, it is worthwhile for the Knesset members to at long last read the Camp David accords.

[Knesset speaker] Knesset members, we do not have an unlimited amount of time. I am asking you to let us continue the debate. I ask this also of the ministers.

[Interjection by unidentified minister] You have no idea about the Camp David accords. No idea.

[Knesset speaker] I would like to ask the ministers, too, not to interrupt the discussion.

[Peres] I have explained the Alinement plan and I would like to say, Knesset members, that the problem is not the linkage. If there were a good plan for Judaea and Samaria, why should you care about the linkage? The linkage bothers you because the plan is bad, because it is intended to do something bad, to do something which contradicts the prime minister's original intentions. This is the truth. Instead of constituting something which leads, it became an obstacle, and other obstacles can be seen along the way, say, in 1 month, the committee will convene to discuss the authority...

[Knesset speaker] I am asking ...

Just 2 minutes, if you please. I am simply being interrupted and I cannot complete a sentence. I would gladly respect your request.

In 1 month, we will discuss the authority [of the administrative council of the autonomy] prior to holding elections. What will take place there? Is there a chance that we will agree on the issue of the public-owned lands? Is there a chance that we will agree on the status of the settlements? Is there a chance that we will agree on the location of the IDF? Colleagues, let us talk seriously, Yiga'el, we are not talking about a simple meeting.

[Indistinct interjection]

[Interjection by unidentified MK] Why are you interrupting him, Yiga'el?

[Knesset speaker] Really, Knesset members, please do not interrupt.

We have involved Egypt in this issue in that we have imposed on it the Arab world. Instead of having the peace process with Egypt influence Judaea and Samaria, the difficulties in Judaea and Samaria will influence the negotiations with Egypt. We have enabled Jordan to remain outside. We have complicated Israel's situation. With whom should we conduct negotiations? The Arabs of the territories cannot do so. In my opinion, if 'Arafat comes to the negotiations, he will be destroyed by his own coalition. If we accept the plan drawn up by his coalition, Israel will be destroyed. This is a gentleman with whom you can neither bargain nor finish.

The only one was Jordan. We have involved Egypt in an issue with which it is not equipped to deal.

[Interjection by MK Tawfiq Tubi] In which case it is better to have a Palestinian state, Israel cannot bear the bloodshed ...

You know, no one is stopping ...

[Interjection by MK Tawfiq Tubi] You can be satisfied ...

[Knesset speaker] MK Tubi, stop it, enough interruptions today.

No one is preventing you from settling the affairs in Lebanon. There is no Israel there, no parties. Go ahead and settle things there. You have 'Arafat. You can sit down with him, talk to him. Go ahead and settle the affairs there. What do you want from my life?

[Interjection by MK Me'ir Wilner] In Lebanon, if you had not interfered, it would long ago have been quiet there.

[Indistinct interjections]

[Knesset speaker] Knesset members!

One last remark. One last remark to the prime minister's words. Mr Speaker, honorable Knesset, I will say this in my own behalf, even though I am sure that in doing so I am representing many Knesset members: It does not make any difference to us where Israel makes a commitment or where it signs a treaty, whether this is in a preamble, in an accompanying letter, in an explanatory letter or in a secret agreement; in my opinion, wherever Israel signs, it is committed, whether this is in the preamble or whether this is in the treaty or in a letter. A country which makes a commitment is bound to fulfill it. All this gamut of commitments perhaps interests jurists. After all, if the treaty is not fulfilled, whom should they blame? As 'Amos Hadar said: To the 'Afula court? What we take upon ourselves, we mean to take upon ourselves be it in the preamble or elsewhere. What difference does it make?

If people in Gaza say: If defensible borders are insured for Gaza, if authority which will enable Israel to fulfill its security role is guaranteed, then I do not mind [granting autonomy to] Gaza.

The problem is not elections, the problem is the security of Israel in the real, full meaning of the word.

Together with the government, we will support the government's proposal against anyone, Egyptian or American, without hesitation but faithfully and respectfully.

But, when the pressure ends, this is a free country with two opinions. I believe that our view is correct as far as reality is concerned. It was conceived in reality and provides an answer to the needs of reality. That is why we will not vote against the government's proposal, but we shall express our opinion in our own proposal.

Dayan Address

TA191515Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1410 GMT 19 Dec 78 TA

[Speech by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to the Knesset in Jerusalem--live]

[Text] Mr Chairman, Knesset members: I have asked permission to participate now in the debate--I might have done so at a later stage--as leader of the delegation to the negotiations in Washington to make three factual remarks which I think are required for the debate.

The first remark is this: The draft proposal for an agreement that the prime minister mentioned here and which we were prepared to sign on 11 November [as heard] and which we are prepared to sign now, is not the Israeli peace proposal. It is not the government's peace proposal. It is not a proposal, it is the result of a compromise agreement that we ... reached with the Egyptian and U.S. delegations, and this is the first time that Israel has, at this level of lengthy and very detailed and comprehensive negotiations, including all the appendices, reached an agreed proposal for a peace agreement. Of course we can come up with a much better peace proposal from the government just as the Alinement and any other group of Knesset members can come up with a wonderful and unilateral proposal. The question is, can they come up with a result and not just with a proposal, with the other party agreeing to something better than this? The proposal that we are prepared to sign today and the one achieved on 11 November this year was the result of compromises agreed upon by the Egyptian delegation, by the representatives of the United States and by us through making concessions. This is the first time that such a proposal was agreed upon by all parties. I know of all the partition proposals, the Allon plan, but they had one flaw--they were never agreed upon by both sides.

[MK Hillel--Alinement interjects] The foreign minister is saying that this proposal is also not agreed upon.

I am saying that it was agreed upon by the Egyptian delegation which was in constant touch with President as-Sadat and his friends. You understand well what I am saying and I understand what you are saying. We know that the Egyptians do not want to sign the treaty today, but you know that the proposal is not the one that we took to Washington but is the result of compromise and agreement and we have never had, MK Hillel and MK Shoshana Arbeli, in the 30 years of Israel's history we have never had a result at this level, of two delegations which sat and discussed clause after clause and reached an agreed proposal, be it without the signature of President as-Sadat.

[MK Arbeli--Alinement, interjects] You did, but it is no longer. Where is it today?

Believe me that on all the proposals and discussions on peace that took place within Israel, I am as knowledgeable as any other Knesset member.

[Unidentified interjection] What are you so proud of--the fact that it has failed?

You may not like it, but this is the first time that an agreed proposal, as opposed to one side's proposal, has been achieved.

The second point--and I propose that the Knesset members listen because I think it is a very important point--is that in return for our withdrawal the main thing that the Egyptians were to have given is the normalization in relations and on the issue of normalization, to be manifest by an exchange of ambassadors and by many other things--negotiations on commercial agreements, the abolition of the boycott and so forth--on this issue we obtained the agreement of the supreme level of the Egyptian Government. This is not the same as the situation with respect to certain proposals raised by our delegation, including the draft of the joint letter which we proposed and which the government rejected--and this was usual in the negotiations where everything was ad referendum subject to government approval. On this issue of the exchange of ambassadors within a month after the completion of the first stage of the withdrawal and all the other things connected with the normalization, President Carter received a reply from President as-Sadat and we did not receive it from the Egyptian delegation there, but from the supreme level just as if the Israeli Government here decided and gave a final answer from the final authority on this issue. A backing down now is not a case of President as-Sadat and the Egyptian Government not approving what the Egyptian delegation agreed to but this is a change in position and an expression of regret by President as-Sadat on an agreement that he gave to President Carter who informed us on President as-Sadat's behalf that he agreed to these things.

The third thing that I wish to say applies to the connection between three things that are subject to endorsement.

[Indistinct interjection]

If you do not wish to listen to me you are entitled not to, but please, let me make these factual remarks. You did not know and you ought to know that the answer was received from President as-Sadat via President Carter and not from the Egyptian delegation and, therefore, it did not require further approval by the Egyptian delegation.

[MK Me'ir Pa'il--Shelli, interjects] Is it true that President as-Sadat sent this letter to Carter knowing full well that the Israeli Government would agree to a timetable for the linkage to the autonomy [as heard] and this is the reason why he said what he did? Is this true or not?

The third point... [indistinct interjections] This is not difficult for me to answer. Our delegation made several proposals, from a formula about the target date, including issues such as withdrawals and interim stages, and said that these require the approval of the Israeli Government and when the Israeli Government did not approve them they were not...

[MK Pa'il--Shelli, interjects] This is important to know. This means that the Israeli Government did not approve the timetable which you agreed upon.

This is what I am saying, that the Egyptian delegation did the same thing on several occasions and the U.S. delegation did this more than anyone else. The U.S. delegation, more than any other delegation, changed the drafts that it submitted from time to time. The first letter submitted by the U.S. delegation on behalf of President Carter did not include any target date and a few days later they said: we propose a change, that we introduce a target date--and everyone knew that this requires approval. However, the exchange of ambassadors was a statement from President as-Sadat to President Carter.

Finally, three decisions are required. One of them has been actively taken--approval of the decision on the Camp David agreement. Following this a second decision is required. Had the sides agreed on the peace treaty, then first the Israeli Government--and it would certainly have brought this to the Knesset--would have had to make a decision on this. The same also applies to the autonomy.

It was agreed between the parties that with respect to the autonomy the parties would enter negotiations 1 month after the signing of the peace treaty in order to define authorities with respect to the autonomy and if and when they would reach agreement on the autonomy, the various governments would have to approve that agreement and in Israel's case, to submit it to the Knesset for approval. That is to say, we are talking about three stages, each in its own right: A) the Camp David agreement which was submitted for approval; B) the peace agreement which, had the Egyptian Government been prepared to sign it, would have had to receive the approval; and C) had Egypt signed the peace agreement then, 1 month later, we were to have entered negotiations on the autonomy and when we had reached agreement on this the two governments--the Israeli and Egyptian governments--would have had to approve this and I have no doubt that the Israeli Government would have submitted this for the Knesset's approval. Therefore, on this issue, three votes are required and only one of them has gone through the Knesset, the second has gone through the Israeli Government and we have not even started negotiating the third.

Please excuse the fact that my voice has gone.

Other Speeches Reported

TA191742Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Dec 78 TA

[Text] MK Yosef Rom of the Likud called for an information campaign and for deployment [to meet] pressures. He expressed doubts about Egypt's peace intentions and, in his opinion, Cairo is only making a limited nonbelligerency agreement.

Yehuda Ben-Me'ir of the MAFDAL said that the Lord was kind to us in that As-Sadat let the cat out of the bag before signing the treaty. Ben-Me'ir called upon the Knesset and the people to unite and said that the threat of an imposed agreement is no less dangerous than war.

Further Details

TA191745Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpt] Likud MK Avraham Katz said that the U.S. administration's position helped us prove that the Israeli public is united in its determination not to accept a peace treaty which does not involve peace.

Me'ir Talmi from MAPAM said that it is not difficult to recruit the public in Israel that the U.S. position is one-sided, but it is difficult to raise support for the United States when the cabinet's policy is wrong. [sentence as heard]

Democratic Movement MK Binyamin Halevi said that we are about to fall into a trap.

Amnon Rubinstein from SHAY said that we must not let our fury with the United States remove us from the road to peace.

According to RAKAH MK Me'ir Wilner, there is only one problem, the need to recognize the fact that there are two nations in Israel: the Israeli people and the Palestinians.

DAYAN SPEAKS AT CONCLUSION OF POLITICAL DEBATE

[Text] At the conclusion of the Knesset political debate the foreign minister called upon the Knesset not to hasten closing the door on the peace agreement. Dayan said that the negotiations might be resumed. He pointed out that we have informed Cyrus Vance that we are prepared to find an agreed formula on the issue of a timetable for autonomy. We are also prepared [to receive] clarifications on reassessing security arrangements.

Moshe Dayan stressed that it is not enough to say no, and one has to adopt initiatives, even if they are unilateral. On this issue the foreign minister listed four major initiatives: to seek paths toward agreements with all our neighbors; to examine possibilities of granting greater independence to Arabs in the territories; to examine joint frameworks for us and the residents of the territories--among other things with respect to water sources--and, to strengthen settlements, thus preventing our friends and enemies from thinking that it is possible to throw us out of Judaea and Samaria.

MK Yizhaq Rabin called for a firm stand in the face of the administration in Washington. He pointed out that we do not resemble Taiwan and we have wide support in the United States, which enables us to restrain the administration's negative tendencies.

MOTION CENSURES U.S. POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS

TA192117Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 19 Dec 78 TA

[Text] This evening the Knesset approved the coalition's summation proposal, submitted at the end of the political debate by a majority of 66 to 7. The Likud, MAFDAL, Democratic Movement, SHAY, Agudat Yisra'el, Assaf Yaguri and Shulamit Alloni voted in favor of the proposal. Likud MK Ge'ula Kohen, most of the Alinement Knesset members and Gid'on Hausner abstained.

The Alinement's Imri Ron, the representatives of Hadash [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and Shelli voted against the proposal.

The summation proposal approved by the Knesset says that the new Egyptian proposals are inflexible and that the signing of the peace treaty was prevented because of them. The position of the U.S. Administration is one-sided, unjust and does not contribute to advancing toward peace.

The summation proposal says that Israel wants peace and has made sacrifices toward this end, but it will not accept proposals which harm its well-being and security.

MK Ge'ula Kohen did not explain her abstention from the podium because her faction has suspended her. However, she circulated among reporters the speech she had prepared. In that speech she explains that the government is still bound to the Camp David accords and therefore its submition to concessions and to pressures is only a question of time.

NIOC SAYS OIL OUTPUT 3.3 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY

LD191824Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] According to a statement issued by the NIOC this afternoon, the country's oil output has now increased to 3.3 million barrels per day.

100 IRANIANS CHARGED WITH EXPORTING CAPITAL

TA200643Y Paris AFP in English 0631 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 20 (AFP)--Iranian authorities here today charged 100 people, including four former ministers, three generals and the former navy chief, with "illegal export of capital," it was officially announced.

The charges, which also included two sons of Princess Ashraf--the shah's twin sister--and many business figures, followed the publication by striking Iranian Markazi Bank personnel of a list of people alleged to have sent major sums abroad.

Sums illegally exported were alleged to have totalled up to about 35,000 million rials (around 500 million dollars).

KHOMEYNI, MONTAZERI HOLD TALKS IN PARIS

TA191626Y Paris AFP in English 1616 GMT 19 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Paris, 19 Dec (AFP)--Ayatollah Khomeyni, exiled Iranian Shi'ite Moslem opposition leader, today had a second meeting here with the man expected one day to succeed him, Ayatollah Montazeri. Their initial meeting was held yesterday after Ayatollah Montazeri flew in here from Iran.

Sources in Ayatollah Khomeyni's entourage said the two ayatollahs today discussed the situation in Iran, including the repression and torture there.

Ayatollah Montazeri intends to stay in Paris for "a few days," the sources said. He would be having further talks with Ayatollah Khomeyni.

ITALIAN DAILY INTERVIEWS FORMER IRANIAN PREMIER

AU191650Y Rome ANSA in English 1530 GMT 19 Dec 78 AU

[Text] Rome, Dec 19 (ANSA)--"I asked the shah to limit himself to resigning, leaving government up to me, but agreement was not possible," the leading Milan daily, CORRIERE DELLA SERA, quoted former Iranian Prime Minister Ali Amini as saying today. The 73-year old former premier, who held the finance portfolio in the Mossadeq government in the early fifties, was a prime minister in the period after the shah took full powers in 1953.

The Milan daily's dispatch from Tehran described him as a conservative and recalling that the opposition regards him as "America's man," cited American sources as saying he had been asked to form a "reconciliation" government.

Amini told the CORRIERE that in September he had in fact been asked to "set up a bridge" between the shah and the opposition. "I asked the shah to limit himself to reigning, leaving me the task of governing," he added. "In this case, I would have accepted forming a national coalition government and organising free elections, but it had to be clear that I was ruling the country. Agreement was not possible."

Amini added that he had received no further offers since then, "even if I do not deny having had contacts with the royal palace."

The Mossadeq government was set up in April 1951 and its major achievement was the nationalisation of the oil industry, as well as some land, tax and rent reforms. Massadeq was ousted after rumors that he intended to oust the shah and set up a republic.

CLASH IN TEHRAN BAZAAR AREA REPORTED

London REUTER in English 1021 GMT 20 Dec 78 WA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 20, REUTER--Security forces today closed off Tehran's central bazaar after a fight between a group of demonstrators and three plainclothes police in which at least two people were feared killed, witnesses said.

The bazaar, a big covered network of shops selling everything from corks to Persian carpets, was closed today as it has been on and off for the past six weeks.

A small crowd, between 50 and 100 people, started shouting slogans near the west side of the bazaar, hailing the exiled chief religious opponent of the shah of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, and abusing the army, the witnesses said.

Suddenly a small boy spotted three men carrying revolvers in the crowd and shouted, "police, police."

The three men started shouting slogans against Ayatollah Khomeyni and the crowd turned on them.

One of the men opened fire, wounding a man in the crowd. Local residents said the man killed.

The policeman was chased and sought refuge on a balcony, but he was caught and hurled to the street below. He too was believed to have died, but this was not confirmed, the witnesses said. The crowd chased the other two policemen and cut off an ear of one before he fled, bleeding. The third radioed for help and a truckload of security forces moved in to break up the crowd and seal of bazaar alleyways, the witnesses said. Several people were arrested. Tehran's bazaar has close traditional links with Iran's Shi-ite Moslem clergy and has been a center of political and financial support for the opposition movement backing Ayatollah Khomeyni, who lives in Paris. Several miles further north, heavily armed troops circles Tehran University, another potential trouble spot, apparently fearing anti-shah demonstrations. The university was closed last month following bloody riots. The government announced last night that administrative departments of the university would reopen next Saturday, though no date had been fixed for classes to resume.

BANGLADESH

LABOR PARTY CHIEF AGAINST ELECTION BOYCOTT

BK180223Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 18 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The chief of the Bangladesh Labor Party, Maulana Abdul Matin, has called upon the opposition parties to revise their decision to boycott the parliamentary elections and participate in it to help establish democracy in the country. In a press statement in Dacca yesterday, he welcomed the steps taken by President Ziaur Rahman in repealing the undemocratic provisions of the fourth amendment to the constitution.

Meanwhile the chief of the Bangladesh Jatiya League, Mr Ataur Rahman Khan, has criticized the fifth amendment to the constitution by the president and said it will make the parliament and the Council of Ministers subservient to the presidency.

The president of the Awami League--Malek group, Mr Abdul Malek Ukil, in a press statement has also expressed similar views on the latest amendment to the constitution.

OPPOSITION PARTIES MEET, UPHOLD ELECTION BOYCOTT

BK181658Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 78 BK

[Excerpt] A public meeting was held at Baitul Mukarram in Dacca this afternoon. Presided over by Mr Ataur Rahman Khan of the Jatiya League, the parties represented at the meeting resolved that they will not participate in the election until their demands were met. The demands include withdrawal of martial law, release of all political prisoners, repeal of the fourth amendment and other undemocratic provisions of the constitution and lifting of restrictions on the press.

INDIA

DELHI GIVES DETAILS OF ACTION AGAINST MRS GANDHI

BK191605Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Dec 78 BK

[Excerpts] The Lok Sabha today expelled Mrs Indira Gandhi from its membership ordered that she be sent to prison for breach of parliamentary privilege and contempt. Prime Minister Mr Morarji Desai's amended motion to this effect was adopted by the house with 279 members voting in favor and 138 against. There were 37 abstentions.

The house had accepted the Privileges Committee's finding that Mrs Gandhi had prevented four officials from collecting information on Maruti affairs which the Lok Sabha has sought.

After the verdict the house adjourned when the speaker, Mr Hegde, signed the warrant for Mrs Gandhi's arrest. The warrant of arrest committing Mrs Gandhi to Tihar jail was sought and [word indistinct] a short while ago. She later left parliament house for Tihar jail in New Delhi.

After the adjournment of the house, Mrs Gandhi told newsmen that she has accepted the verdict of the house. Answering questions, she said she will again contest the elections for the Lok Sabha and she prefers Chikmagalur.

Mrs Gandhi read out a statement to the newsmen in which she alleged that the verdict was not based on the facts of the case but on past grievances of members. She also repeated her explanation why she did not give evidence before the Privileges Committee.

Former Gandhi Officials Jailed

BK200310Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Mrs Gandhi's former additional private secretary R.K. Dhawan and former CBI [Central Bureau of Investigations] chief D. Sen, who were also ordered by the house to be jailed along with her, have been arrested. The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent says that the warrant for arrests were served on them early this morning and both of them have been sent to Tihar jail.

PRO-GANDHI DEMONSTRATORS ARRESTED IN DELHI, CHANDIGARH

BK181635Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 78 BK

[Text] A procession of the Congress-I demonstrators was teargassed when they broke the police cordon and defied the prohibitory orders near the prime minister's house in New Delhi today. The demonstration was organized by the Delhi Pradesh [state] Congress-I on the privilege issue against the Congress-I president, Mrs Indira Gandhi. About 700 demonstrators including some women and other local leaders of the party were arrested. Glass panes of 10 buses were damaged in stone-throwing. Police resorted to teargas to bring the situation under control. Police said 15 police personnel including a DSP [deputy superintendant of police] of the Central Reserve Police were injured.

In Chandigarh today, youth Congress-I workers forced their way into the civil secretariat and occupied the room of the Punjab chief minister. They ransacked the room. They were demonstrating against the move in the Lok Sabha to take action against Mrs Gandhi on the privilege issue. The police resorted to lathi [baton] charges to disperse the agitators. Thirty-three persons were arrested.

In a statement the Punjab industries minister, Mr Balramji Das Tandon, condemned the youth Congress-I agitators and said that the earlier threat of Congress-I to resort to violence has come true. The general secretary of the Punjab Pradesh Congress-I has demanded a judicial inquiry into the police action.

Demonstration in Calcutta

BK190336Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Dec 78 BK

[Text] In Calcutta, police resorted to lathi [baton] charge and burst teargas shells to disperse a Congress-I procession which tried to break a police cordon. About 200 persons were arrested.

Further Delhi Arrests

BK191617Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Dec 78 BK

[Text] For the second day today, about 400 Congress-I workers were arrested on Parliament Street in New Delhi for defying prohibitory orders. They were demonstrating on the privilege issue against Congress-I President Mrs Gandhi.

Incidents in Bangalore, Bombay

BK200822Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Text] There have been reports of violent incidents in some parts of the country in response to the bundh [strike] given by the Congress-I protesting against the arrest of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

In Bangalore, police opened two rounds of fire when a group of people attempted to set fire to a car near (Okhipuram) this morning. No one was injured. According to the city police, 80 people have been arrested and police burst 50 rounds of teargas shells to disperse violent mobs in different parts of the city.

Life in Bombay is near normal today despite the Bombay bundh call given by the Congress-I. However, a few cases of stone throwing and arson were reported in some parts of the city. According to the police, three city buses were set on fire, one of them completely burnt. Twenty-six buses were damaged by stone-throwing. Over 400 persons were arrested until this news.

VAJPAYEE ON U.S. NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

BK191535Y Delhi ISI in English 1438 GMT 19 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The following statement was made by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, minister for external affairs, in reply to a calling attention regarding the reported agreement between China and France for the supply of a nuclear plant and technology to China by France under authorisation of the United States:

As the house is aware, press reports have recently appeared stating that France and China have signed an economic agreement in Peking on December 4, 1978 regarding trade between the two countries over the next 7 years. This agreement is reported to include a provision regarding the sale of nuclear power reactors to China by a French firm.

It has also been stated that the nuclear power reactors in question are based on technology originating in the United States. While the government have seen newspaper reports that it is likely that the U.S. Government would give their clearance which would be necessary for their export to China by France, it is understood that the question of their clearance is still under the consideration of the U.S. Government.

The government do not yet have confirmed details and information on the scope and conditions of the reported sale of the nuclear power equipment to China. In the absence of these it is not possible to comment on the precise implications of this transfer of technology which [words indistinct] is the immediate concern of the three parties involved. However, I would like to reiterate the government's well-known views on the peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy and the necessity to ensure that any safeguards that may be eventually applied in the matter of the transfer of nuclear technology should be uniform and nondiscriminatory covering all activities applicable to nuclear and nonnuclear weapon states.

AIR [All-India Radio] reports: The minister of external affairs said that it would be wrong for the United States to supply a nuclear plant and technology to China on conditions different from those it applied to other countries. It would not only be a matter of grave concern for India but also create a sense of dissatisfaction.

Vajpayee said his ministry was informed by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi that the American Government had not given its clearance to the deal so far.

PTI reports: The External Affairs Ministry was maintaining contacts with the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi and if the agreement was finalised then whatever was necessary from the diplomatic point of view would be done, Vajpayee told the Lok Sabha.

Vajpayee said that America was following double standards in seeking to enforce nuclear safeguards on countries which abjured the manufacture of atomic weapons like India but not insisting on them in regard to countries already possessing such arms as China.

If China wanted to modernise her nuclear technology for the purpose like power generation then the United States could transfer it under conditions which were applied to the supply of the Tarapore power plant.

Vajpayee said that if similar conditions were not imposed on China on the transfer of nuclear technology "then it is only a matter of grave concern and it will create serious dissatisfaction." India had already conveyed this to the United States.

In regard to the Tarapore plant Vajpayee said that the United States must honour its agreement with India. The attitude of President Carter was helpful but there were other agencies which were not helpful.

"We hope that America will positively honour the agreement and if it does not... we will have uranium from other sources," the minister said.

The minister said that there was already an exchange of letters between President Carter and Prime Minister Desai.

When the agreement between France and China was finalised, he said, India would take it up at that level too.

The minister said that India's desire to normalise relations with its neighbours (including China) was not at the cost of other countries. But this question of the supply of a nuclear plant and technology was more concerned with America.

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED FOLLOWING LEE KUAN YEW VISIT

BK141525Y Delhi ISI in English 1445 GMT 14 Dec 78 BK

[Text] India and Singapore on December 14 called for efforts to consolidate regional cooperation in South Asia and among ASEAN countries as a vital factor for peace, stability and economic development, reports PTI.

A joint statement issued at the end of the 2-day stay in New Delhi of the Singapore prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, indicated bright prospects of increasing cooperation between India and countries of the ASEAN region and between India and Singapore. The statement, issued after extensive talks between Lee and Prime Minister Morarji Desai, said that the two leaders felt that increasing cooperation between India and ASEAN region countries was of mutual advantage. They expressed satisfaction that the ASEAN secretary general had held exploratory talks with the Government of India on possible forms of cooperation.

Lee and Desai also noted that the already existing wide range of cooperation between the two countries could be expanded, especially in the fields of trade, investment and transfer of technology.

Lee briefed Desai on the progress made by ASEAN. Desai indicated India's desire to establish closer relations with ASEAN. With reference to the situation in Southeast Asia, the two leaders emphasized the need for peaceful and constructive relations to be developed among all nation states on the basis of the principle of noninterference in internal affairs and respect for sovereignty. Desai reiterated India's support for the ASEAN and also its continued commitment to the establishment of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality.

The joint statement said that the talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding.

Prime Minister Morarji Desai has accepted an invitation by the Singapore prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, to visit Singapore.

BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN DELHI

BK191511Y Delhi ISI in English 1437 GMT 19 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh Foreign Minister Prof Shamsul Haq arrived in New Delhi on a 2-day visit, reports PTI. Professor Haq was received by Minister of External Affairs A.B. Vajpayee with whom he will have talks on bilateral and international matters.

Holds Talks With Vajpayee

BK200901Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Text] India and Bangladesh have called for mutually beneficial cooperation between countries of the region. This would make them self-reliant and free from big power influence. There views were expressed by the foreign ministers of India and Bangladesh at their meeting in New Delhi today. The Bangladesh foreign minister, Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq, called on Mr Vajpayee and held talks for about 90 minutes. Both the ministers expressed concern over the escalation of tension in the Indochina region. Among the other issues discussed was the UN proposal for nuclear free zone in South Asia. The Bangladesh side supported India's stand on the issue that there should be prior consultation among the countries of the region before creating such a zone.

Later, talking to newsmen, the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr Haq, said that the talks were very fruitful.

MINISTERS COMMENT ON EFFECT OF OPEC OIL PRICE INCREASE

BK180347Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Commenting on the decision [of OPEC to increase oil prices], the minister for petroleum and chemicals, Mr Bahuguna, said in New Delhi that the developing countries will be hit hard by the rise in oil prices.

The finance minister, Mr H. M. Patel, said that the proposed oil price hike will affect the country's economy.

As already reported, the ministerial conference of the OPEC in its meeting in Abu Dhabi yesterday unanimously decided to increase oil prices by 15 percent during next year. This will increase the price of one barrel of oil to $14.60 as against $12.70 at present.

FERNANDES RETURNS FROM LIBYA, AUSTRIA, VATICAN VISITS

BK150532Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The union industry minister, Mr George Fernandes, who led the Indian delegation to the Indo-Libyan joint commission meeting in Tripoli, returned to New Delhi this morning.

Mr Fernandes yesterday had a 40-minute audience with the pope at the Vatican. He extended to him the prime minister, Mr Desai's, invitation to visit India.

Earlier, at Vienna, Mr Fernandes called on the Austrian chancellor, Mr Kreisky, and had a wide-ranging discussion with him on expansion of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. The discussions included modernization and expansion of the Durgapur and Rourkela steel plants. The possibility of Austrian technical and financial collaboration for the Mangalore steel plant were also discussed.

NEPAL

KING GRANTS AMNESTY TO 30 NEPALI CONGRESS WORKERS

BK161612Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1606 GMT 16 Dec 78 BK

[Excerpt] Katmandu, Dec 14 (AFP)--King Birendra of Nepal today granted amnesty to 31 political workers of the banned Nepali Congress who were involved in anti-state activities, according to a royal palace press notice.

The group, the fourth since the institution of a policy of political liberalization in Nepal, has been permitted to stay in Nepal, and prison sentences and some of the fines imposed upon them have been lifted.

The workers belongted to General Subarna's faction of the banned Congress which broke away from B.R. Koirala's group.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI RADIO COMMENTS ON NEW U.S.-PRC TIES

BK191311Y Karachi Overseas Service in Bengali 0115 GMT 19 Dec 78 BK

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The PRC and the United States have decided to establish diplomatic relations. This is an event with great significance in international politics, an event which no one can ignore. Consequently Pakistan, along with the international community, has congratulated China and the United States on their historic decision.

The decision was announced last Saturday and has been welcomed all over the world. Nobody can deny that it is a correct step for the cause of world peace and international understanding. The most industrially advanced country and the most populous country--the United States and the PRC--have recognized each other after 29 years. This is an historic event in international relations.

Not only have the two countries decided to establish diplomatic relations as of 1 January, but the United States has recognized Taiwan as an integral part of China.

The United States will sever its diplomatic relations and repeal its defense treaty with Taiwan on 1 January. The United States will withdraw all its troops from Taiwan within 4 months. It will be exclusively China's internal affair to decide how Taiwan will join the mainland. Taiwan was always a part of China. But after the successful revolution in China in 1949, the defeated Kuomintang leader, the late Chiang Kai-shek, fled with his entire army to Taiwan and established his headquarters there. From that time, Taiwan occupied China's United Nations seat for 2 decades. This was a tragic event in history. At last, Taiwan was expelled from that world organization and China was given its due. The United Nations, in an overwhelming majority, gave China her seat in the world body.

Following the majority support China received at the United Nations, there was a change in the U.S. policy toward China--and a tilt toward China was noted. But the Taiwan issue was always the main obstacle to the normalization of Sino-U.S. relations. China's stand on this issue was always clear. It was a problem for China to establish diplomatic relations with a country that was following a policy of two Chinas. At last the Chinese policy triumphed, and the United States decided to remove all the obstacles in the way to normalizing relations with China.

This is an event with special significance for Pakistan, and it is a matter of satisfaction for her. Pakistan was one of the countries which recognized China immediately after the revolution. Pakistan has always considered Taiwan as a part of China; that is why it never established relations with Taiwan. Pakistan has not only maintained good relations with China but also helped her fight for her UN seat.

In addition, Pakistan played the role of go-between by arranging a high-level meeting between the United States and China. That was in 1971, when U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger went to Peking from Islamabad, and that was the beginning of the story. President Nixon went to China later. The late Chou En-lai also described Pakistan as the link between the two countries.

We are satisfied with President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq's statement welcoming the normalization of relations between China and the United States. The president said that we have always maintained cordial, cooperative and friendly relations with both China and the United States. The president, in a message to the leaders of these two countries, said that in addition to serving their mutual interests, Sino-U.S. relations will contribute to the cause of international peace and stability. The joint communique also reflects this. It says that the two countries will try to reduce international armed conflict and will not follow any expansionist policy in Asia and the Pacific or in any other part of the world or allow anybody to carry out expansionist aspirations or take any step to support a third country which might threaten world peace and stability.

BHUTTO CONTINUES TESTIMONY IN SUPREME COURT

BK191713Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Dec 78 BK

[Text] In the Supreme Court, which is hearing the appeals in the Mohammad Ahmed Khan murder case, all five appellants again appeared before the court today.

The main appellant, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, said that he had no motive to kill Ahmed Reza Kasuri, because he was of no importance to him. He said that when the former inspector general of police in the Punjab informed him of the incident at Multan, the place he was visiting on the day of the incident, he was sorry to hear that Mohammad Ahmed Khan had been killed.

About his subsequent actions, the main appellant said that it was possible that he might have asked Mr Sayed Ahmed Khan to go to Lahore when the tribunal headed by Justice Shafiur Rahman was investigating the Mohammad Ahmed Khan murder. However, the prosecution witness was wrong in saying that the appellant had telephoned him and rebuked him as to what kind of chief security officer he was to let the name of the appellant to be mentioned.

The main appellant also refuted the charge that he was Muslim in name only and had used the defunct federal security force for political purposes. While he was testifying on his views on the Islamic concept of power, the court said that instead of expanding on this, he should come directly to the substance of paragraphs in the judgment wherein reference to this effect had been made. The court also observed that whatever was not on the court's record will not be taken up for consideration by the court.

The main appellant testified for about 3 and 1/2 hours and will continue for another 2 days, as allowed by the court.

SRI LANKA

TRADE TALKS WITH PRC OPEN IN COLOMBO

BK1611562 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Trade talks between Sri Lanka and China commenced in Colombo yesterday. The three-member Chinese delegation was led by the Chinese vice minister for foreign trade, Mr Wang Jun-sheng, while the Sri Lankan team was led by the secretary to the Ministry of Trade and Shipping, Mr (Lakshman de Mel). The food commissioner, the director of commerce, the chairman of the petroleum corporation, the chairman of [word indistinct] and the chief accountant of the central bank also participated in the talks.

At yesterday's discussions it was decided that Sri Lanka will export rubber, coconut oil and certain other products to China to the value of $55 million. China will export to Sri Lanka textiles, rice, kerosene oil, (?dieselene) and other products also to the value of $55 million.

Mr (Lakshman de Mel) told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that this would be purely a trading agreement and not a barter agreement. China will continue to be Sri Lanka's biggest trading partner.

The final round of talks will be held on Tuesday and will be followed by the signing of the new protocol.

BRIEFS

SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION IN BANGLADESH--A three-member advance trade delegation from the Soviet Union arrived in Dacca on 18 December to negotiate and finalize the eighth barter trade agreement with Bangladesh. The leader of the delegation will arrive in Dacca on 26 December to sign the protocol. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 19 Dec 78 BK]